

HTML Cheat Sheet

An HTML cheat sheet is a one-page quick reference of the most-used HTML tags and attributes. This one lists 88 elements grouped by purpose, from page structure and text to links, media, lists, tables and forms, each with a plain-English description and a copy-ready example, plus input types, global attributes and HTML entities.

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Basic HTML page template

Every HTML page starts from this structure. Copy it, or open it in the editor and start building.

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
<head>
  <meta charset="UTF-8">
  <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
  <meta name="description" content="A short summary of the page">
  <title>Page title</title>
  <link rel="stylesheet" href="style.css">
</head>
<body>
  <header>
    <nav><a href="/">Home</a></nav>
  </header>
  <main>
    <h1>Main heading</h1>
    <p>Your content goes here.</p>
  </main>
  <footer>
    <p>&copy; 2026 Your Name</p>
  </footer>
```

```
<script src="script.js"></script>
</body>
</html>
```

Document & metadata

The tags that set up a page. Everything except `<body>` content lives in `<head>`.

TAG	WHAT IT DOES	EXAMPLE
<code><!DOCTYPE html></code>	Tells the browser the page is modern HTML. Always the first line	<code><!DOCTYPE html></code>
<code><html></code>	The root element that wraps the whole page; set the language here	<code><html lang="en">...</html></code>
<code><head></code>	Holds information about the page that isn't shown on it	<code><head>...</head></code>
<code><title></code>	The page title shown in the browser tab and search results	<code><title>My Page</title></code>
<code><meta></code>	Page information: character set, mobile viewport, description	<code><meta charset="UTF-8"></code>
<code><link></code>	Connects an external file such as a stylesheet or icon	<code><link rel="stylesheet" href="style.css"></code>
<code><style></code>	CSS written directly in the page	<code><style>p { color: red; }</style></code>
<code><script></code>	Adds JavaScript, inline or from a file	<code><script src="app.js"></script></code>
<code><noscript></code>	Content shown only when JavaScript is turned off	<code><noscript>Please enable JavaScript</noscript></code>
<code><base></code>	Sets the base URL for all relative links on the page	<code><base href="https://example.com/"></code>



TAG	WHAT IT DOES	EXAMPLE
<code><body></code>	Contains everything visible on the page	<code><body>...</body></code>

Text & headings

Headings, paragraphs and inline tags that give text its meaning.

TAG	WHAT IT DOES	EXAMPLE
<code><h1></code> – <code><h6></code>	Headings from most (h1) to least (h6) important	<code><h1>Page title</h1></code>
<code><p></code>	A paragraph of text	<code><p>Some text.</p></code>
<code>
</code>	A line break inside text (void, no closing tag)	Line one Line two
<code><wbr></code>	An optional break point inside a long word	very long word
<code><hr></code>	A thematic break, shown as a horizontal line	<code><hr></code>
<code></code>	Important text, bold by default	<code>Warning:</code>
<code></code>	Stressed emphasis, italic by default	I <code>love</code> it
<code></code>	Draws attention to text without extra importance	<code>Keyword</code>
<code><i></code>	Alternate voice: terms, foreign words, titles of ships	<code><i lang="fr">café</i></code>
<code><u></code>	Non-textual annotation, e.g. a spelling error	<code><u>mispelled</u></code>
<code><small></code>	Side comments and fine print	<code><small>Terms apply</small></code>



TAG	WHAT IT DOES	EXAMPLE
<code><mark></code>	Highlighted, relevant text	<code><mark>match</mark></code>
<code><s></code>	Text that is no longer accurate	<code><s>\$49</s></code> \$29
<code><sub></code> / <code><sup></code>	Subscript and superscript	H <code><sub>2</sub></code> O, x <code><sup>2</sup></code>
<code><code></code>	A fragment of computer code	<code><code>let x = 1;</code></code>
<code><kbd></code>	Keyboard input	<code><kbd>Ctrl</kbd></code> + <code><kbd>C</kbd></code>
<code><samp></code>	Sample output from a program	<code><samp>File saved</samp></code>
<code><var></code>	A variable in maths or code	<code><var>x</var></code> = 5
<code><pre></code>	Preformatted text that keeps spaces and line breaks	<code><pre> spaced text</pre></code>
<code><blockquote></code>	A long quotation from another source	<code><blockquote cite="url">...</code> <code></blockquote></code>
<code><q></code>	A short inline quotation (adds quote marks)	<code><q>Keep it simple</q></code>
<code><cite></code>	The title of a creative work	<code><cite>The Hobbit</cite></code>
<code><abbr></code>	An abbreviation, with its full form in title	<code><abbr title="HyperText Markup Language">HTML</abbr></code>
<code><time></code>	A date or time with a machine-readable value	<code><time datetime="2026-10-09">Oct 9</time></code>
<code><data></code>	Content linked to a machine-readable value	<code><data value="1042">Blue shoes</data></code>
<code><ins></code> / <code><del></code>	Text added to / removed from a document	<code>~~2pm~~</code> <code><ins>3pm</ins></code>
<code></code>	A generic inline container for styling	<code>New</code>

Links & media

Links, images, video, audio and embedded content.

TAG	WHAT IT DOES	EXAMPLE
<a>	A hyperlink to another page, file, email or section	<code>About</code>
	An image (void). Always add alt text	<code></code>
<picture>	Offers several image versions for sizes or formats	<code><picture><source srcset="a.webp"></picture></code>
<figure> / <figcaption>	Self-contained content with a caption	<code><figure><figcaption>Fig. 1</figcaption></figure></code>
<video>	Embeds a video player	<code><video src="clip.mp4" controls></video></code>
<audio>	Embeds an audio player	<code><audio src="song.mp3" controls></audio></code>
<source>	An alternative file for video, audio or picture	<code><source src="clip.webm" type="video/webm"></code>
<track>	Captions or subtitles for media	<code><track src="en.vtt" kind="captions" srclang="en"></code>
<iframe>	Embeds another web page, video or map	<code><iframe src="https://..." title="Map"></iframe></code>



TAG	WHAT IT DOES	EXAMPLE
<code><canvas></code>	A drawing area for JavaScript graphics	<code><canvas id="c" width="300" height="150"></canvas></code>
<code><svg></code>	Inline vector graphics	<code><svg width="40" height="40"> <circle cx="20" cy="20" r="18"/></svg></code>
<code><map></code> / <code><area></code>	Clickable regions on an image	<code><area shape="rect" coords="0,0,50,50" href="/a/" alt="A"></code>
<code><embed></code> / <code><object></code>	Embeds external content such as a PDF	<code><object data="file.pdf" type="application/pdf"></object></code>

Lists

Bulleted, numbered and description lists.

TAG	WHAT IT DOES	EXAMPLE
<code></code>	An unordered (bulleted) list	<code>Apples</code>
<code></code>	An ordered (numbered) list	<code><ol start="3">Step</code>
<code></code>	A list item inside <code></code> or <code></code>	<code>Item</code>
<code><dl></code>	A description list of terms and details	<code><dl><dt>HTML</dt><dd>Markup</dd></dl></code>
<code><dt></code> / <code><dd></code>	A term and its description	<code><dt>CSS</dt><dd>Styling</dd></code>

Tables

Rows and columns of data.



TAG	WHAT IT DOES	EXAMPLE
<code><table></code>	A table of rows and columns	<code><table>...</table></code>
<code><caption></code>	The table's title (first child of table)	<code><caption>Prices</caption></code>
<code><thead></code> / <code><tbody></code> / <code><tfoot></code>	Header, body and footer row groups	<code><thead><tr>...</tr></thead></code>
<code><tr></code>	A table row	<code><tr><td>A</td><td>B</td></tr></code>
<code><th></code>	A header cell (use scope)	<code><th scope="col">Name</th></code>
<code><td></code>	A data cell; merge with colspan / rowspan	<code><td colspan="2">Wide cell</td></code>
<code><colgroup></code> / <code><col></code>	Style whole columns at once	<code><colgroup><col class="hl"></colgroup></code>

Forms

Collect input from visitors.

TAG	WHAT IT DOES	EXAMPLE
<code><form></code>	Groups controls and submits their values	<code><form action="/send" method="post">...</form></code>
<code><label></code>	A clickable name for a form field	<code><label for="email">Email</label></code>
<code><input></code>	A form field; the type sets what kind (see table below)	<code><input type="email" id="email" name="email"></code>
<code><textarea></code>	A multi-line text box	<code><textarea name="msg" rows="4"></textarea></code>



TAG	WHAT IT DOES	EXAMPLE
<code><select></code>	A dropdown list	<code><select name="size"> <option>M</option></select></code>
<code><option></code> / <code><optgroup></code>	A choice in a select or datalist, and a group of choices	<code><option value="m" selected>Medium</option></code>
<code><button></code>	A clickable button	<code><button type="submit">Send</button></code>
<code><fieldset></code> / <code><legend></code>	Groups related fields under a caption	<code><fieldset> <legend>Size</legend>... </fieldset></code>
<code><datalist></code>	Autocomplete suggestions for an input	<code><input list="l"><datalist id="l"><option value="A"> </datalist></code>
<code><output></code>	Shows the result of a calculation	<code><output name="total">0</output></code>
<code><progress></code>	A task's progress bar	<code><progress value="70" max="100"></progress></code>
<code><meter></code>	A gauge for a value in a known range	<code><meter value="0.6"></meter></code>

Page structure & interactive

Semantic sections that describe the layout, plus built-in interactive elements.

TAG	WHAT IT DOES	EXAMPLE
<code><header></code>	Introductory content: logo, title, navigation	<code><header><h1>Site</h1> </header></code>
<code><nav></code>	A block of main navigation links	<code><nav>Home </nav></code>



TAG	WHAT IT DOES	EXAMPLE
<code><main></code>	The page's main content (once per page)	<code><main>...</main></code>
<code><section></code>	A thematic group of content with a heading	<code><section><h2>Features</h2></section></code>
<code><article></code>	Self-contained content, e.g. a blog post	<code><article><h2>Post</h2></article></code>
<code><aside></code>	Related side content, e.g. a sidebar	<code><aside>Related links</aside></code>
<code><footer></code>	Closing content: copyright, contact, links	<code><footer>&copy; 2026</footer></code>
<code><address></code>	Contact information for the page or article author	<code><address>Email</address></code>
<code><div></code>	A generic block container for layout and styling	<code><div class="card">...</div></code>
<code><details></code> / <code><summary></code>	An open/close section (no JavaScript)	<code><details><summary>More</summary>...</details></code>
<code><dialog></code>	A popup box, opened with <code>showModal()</code>	<code><dialog id="d">Hello</dialog></code>
<code><template></code>	Hidden, reusable HTML for JavaScript to clone	<code><template id="row"></template></code>
<code><slot></code>	A placeholder inside a web component	<code><slot name="title"></slot></code>

Input types

The `type` attribute turns one `<input>` into many different controls.



TYPE	WHAT IT DOES	EXAMPLE
text	Single-line text (the default)	<code><input type="text"></code>
email	An email address, checked by the browser	<code><input type="email"></code>
password	Hidden characters	<code><input type="password"></code>
number	A number, with min / max / step	<code><input type="number"></code>
tel	A phone number (shows a number keypad on phones)	<code><input type="tel"></code>
url	A web address	<code><input type="url"></code>
search	A search box	<code><input type="search"></code>
checkbox	Tick on or off	<code><input type="checkbox"></code>
radio	Pick one from a group (same name)	<code><input type="radio"></code>
date	A date picker	<code><input type="date"></code>
time	A time picker	<code><input type="time"></code>
file	Upload a file	<code><input type="file"></code>
range	A slider	<code><input type="range"></code>
color	A color picker	<code><input type="color"></code>
hidden	A value sent but not shown	<code><input type="hidden"></code>
submit	A button that sends the form	<code><input type="submit"></code>

Global attributes

These attributes work on almost every HTML element.



ATTRIBUTE	WHAT IT DOES	EXAMPLE
id	A unique name for one element	<code>id="intro"</code>
class	One or more reusable style names	<code>class="card big"</code>
style	Inline CSS for this element	<code>style="color: red"</code>
title	Extra information, shown as a tooltip	<code>title="More info"</code>
lang	The language of the content	<code>lang="en"</code>
hidden	Hides the element	<code>hidden</code>
tabindex	Keyboard focus order	<code>tabindex="0"</code>
data-*	Your own custom data for scripts	<code>data-price="12"</code>
aria-*	Accessibility information for screen readers	<code>aria-label="Close"</code>
dir	Text direction	<code>dir="rtl"</code>
contenteditable	Lets the user edit the content	<code>contenteditable="true"</code>
draggable	Lets the element be dragged	<code>draggable="true"</code>
spellcheck	Turns spell checking on or off	<code>spellcheck="false"</code>
translate	Whether translation tools should translate it	<code>translate="no"</code>

Common HTML entities

Entities write characters that would otherwise be read as code, or that aren't on the keyboard.

ENTITY	SHOWS AS	NAME
&lt;	<	Less-than sign
&gt;	>	Greater-than sign

ENTITY	SHOWS AS	NAME
<code>&amp;</code>	&	Ampersand
<code>&quot;</code>	"	Double quote
<code>&apos;</code>	'	Apostrophe
<code>&nbsp;</code>	(space)	Non-breaking space
<code>&copy;</code>	©	Copyright
<code>&reg;</code>	®	Registered trademark
<code>&trade;</code>	™	Trademark
<code>&mdash;</code>	—	Em dash
<code>&ndash;</code>	–	En dash
<code>&hellip;</code>	...	Ellipsis
<code>&euro;</code>	€	Euro sign
<code>&pound;</code>	£	Pound sign
<code>&times;</code>	×	Multiplication sign
<code>&rarr;</code>	→	Right arrow

