Introducing Tables

- A **table** in HTML is created using the element and can be used to represent information that exists in a two-dimensional grid.
- Tables can be used to display calendars, financial data, pricing tables, and many other types of data.
- Just like a real-world table, an HTML table can contain any type of data: not just numbers, but text, images, forms, even other tables.

Basic Table Structure

- HTML contains any number of rows
- Each row contains any number of table data cells .
- Many tables will contain some type of headings in the first row. In HTML, you indicate header data by using the instead of the element, as shown in Figure 4.3. .
- Browsers tend to make the content within a element bold, but you could style it anyway you would like via CSS.
- The main reason you should use the element is not, however, due to presentation reasons. Rather, you should also use the element for accessibility reasons and for search engine optimization reasons.
- Some browsers do not by default display borders for the table; however, we can do so via CSS.
- All content must appear within the or container.
- Each row must have the same number of or containers.

Sanning Rows and Columns

If you want a given cell to cover several columns or rows, then you can do so by using the **colspan** or **rowspan** attributes (Figure 4.4).

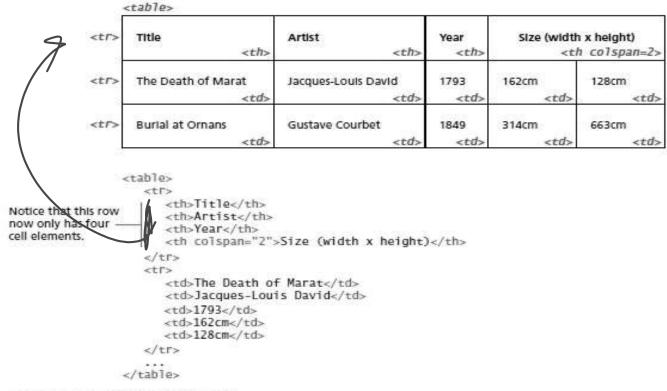


FIGURE 4.4 Spanning columns