



HTML Forms

[< Previous](#)[Next >](#)

An HTML form is used to collect user input. The user input is most often sent to a server for processing.

Example

First name:

Last name:

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The <form> Element

The HTML `<form>` element is used to create an HTML form for user input:



The `<form>` element is a container for different types of input elements, such as: text fields, checkboxes, radio buttons, submit buttons, etc.

All the different form elements are covered in this chapter: [HTML Form Elements](#).

The `<input>` Element

The HTML `<input>` element is the most used form element.

An `<input>` element can be displayed in many ways, depending on the `type` attribute.

Here are some examples:

Type	Description
<code><input type="text"></code>	Displays a single-line text input field
<code><input type="radio"></code>	Displays a radio button (for selecting one of many choices)
<code><input type="checkbox"></code>	Displays a checkbox (for selecting zero or more of many choices)
<code><input type="submit"></code>	Displays a submit button (for submitting the form)
<code><input type="button"></code>	Displays a clickable button

All the different input types are covered in this chapter: [HTML Input Types](#).

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Text Fields

The `<input type="text">` defines a single-line input field for text input.

Example

A form with input fields for text:

```
<form>
  <label for="fname">First name:</label><br>
  <input type="text" id="fname" name="fname"><br>
  <label for="lname">Last name:</label><br>
  <input type="text" id="lname" name="lname">
</form>
```

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This is how the HTML code above will be displayed in a browser:

First name:

Last name:



The <label> Element

Notice the use of the `<label>` element in the example above.

The `<label>` tag defines a label for many form elements.

The `<label>` element is useful for screen-reader users, because the screen-reader will read out loud the label when the user focuses on the input element.

The `<label>` element also helps users who have difficulty clicking on very small regions (such as radio buttons or checkboxes) - because when the user clicks the text within the `<label>` element, it toggles the radio button/checkbox.

The `for` attribute of the `<label>` tag should be equal to the `id` attribute of the `<input>` element to bind them together.

Radio Buttons

The `<input type="radio">` defines a radio button.

Radio buttons let a user select ONE of a limited number of choices.

Example

A form with radio buttons:

```
<p>Choose your favorite Web language:</p>

<form>
  <input type="radio" id="html" name="fav_language" value="HTML">
  <label for="html">HTML</label><br>
  <input type="radio" id="css" name="fav_language" value="CSS">
  <label for="css">CSS</label><br>
  <input type="radio" id="javascript" name="fav_language" value="JavaScript">
```



This is how the HTML code above will be displayed in a browser:

Choose your favorite Web language:

- ☐ HTML
☐ CSS
☐ JavaScript

Checkboxes

The `<input type="checkbox">` defines a **checkbox**.

Checkboxes let a user select ZERO or MORE options of a limited number of choices.

Example

A form with checkboxes:

```
<form>
  <input type="checkbox" id="vehicle1" name="vehicle1" value="Bike">
  <label for="vehicle1"> I have a bike</label><br>
  <input type="checkbox" id="vehicle2" name="vehicle2" value="Car">
  <label for="vehicle2"> I have a car</label><br>
  <input type="checkbox" id="vehicle3" name="vehicle3" value="Boat">
  <label for="vehicle3"> I have a boat</label>
</form>
```

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This is how the HTML code above will be displayed in a browser:



The Submit Button

The `<input type="submit">` defines a button for submitting the form data to a form-handler.

The form-handler is typically a file on the server with a script for processing input data.

The form-handler is specified in the form's `action` attribute.

Example

A form with a submit button:

```
<form action="/action_page.php">
  <label for="fname">First name:</label><br>
  <input type="text" id="fname" name="fname" value="John"><br>
  <label for="lname">Last name:</label><br>
  <input type="text" id="lname" name="lname" value="Doe"><br><br>
  <input type="submit" value="Submit">
</form>
```

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This is how the HTML code above will be displayed in a browser:

First name:

Last name:



If the `name` attribute is omitted, the value of the input field will not be sent at all.

Example

This example will not submit the value of the "First name" input field:

```
<form action="/action_page.php">
  <label for="fname">First name:</label><br>
  <input type="text" id="fname" value="John"><br><br>
  <input type="submit" value="Submit">
</form>
```

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HTML Exercises

Test Yourself With Exercises

Exercise:

In the form below, add an input field with the type "button" and the value "OK".

```
<form>
<
>
</form>
```

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