



# 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:

[Try it Yourself »](#)

## The <form> Element

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

```
<form>
  .
  form elements
  .
</form>
```

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.

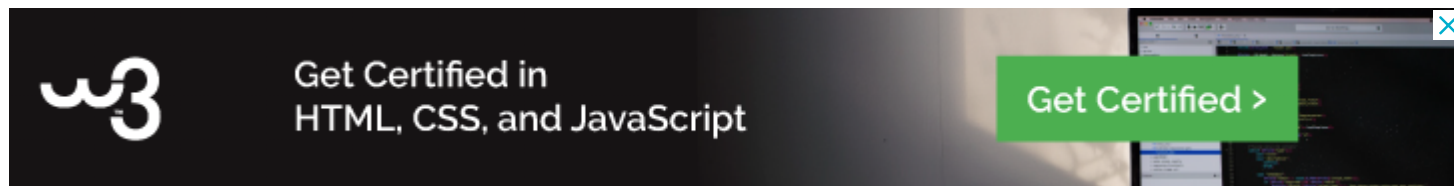
An `<input>` element can be displayed in many ways, depending on the `type` attribute.

Here are some examples:

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

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

ADVERTISEMENT



## 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>
```

[Try it Yourself »](#)

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

First name:

Last name:

**Note:** The form itself is not visible. Also note that the default width of an input field is 20 characters.

## 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 focus on the input element.

The `<label>` element also help 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:

```
<form>
  <input type="radio" id="male" name="gender" value="male">
  <label for="male">Male</label><br>
  <input type="radio" id="female" name="gender" value="female">
  <label for="female">Female</label><br>
  <input type="radio" id="other" name="gender" value="other">
  <label for="other">Other</label>
</form>
```

Try it Yourself »

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

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Other

## 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>
```

Try it Yourself »

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

- ☐ I have a bike
- ☐ I have a car
- ☐ I have a boat

## 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>
```

Try it Yourself »

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

First name:

Last name:

## The Name Attribute for <input>

Notice that each input field must have a `name` attribute to be submitted.

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>
```

[Try it Yourself »](#)



# 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>
```

Submit Answer »

[Start the Exercise](#)

◀ Previous

Next ▶

ADVERTISEMENT

COLOR PICKER



SHOP

HOW TO

Tabs  
Dropdowns  
Accordions  
Side Navigation  
Top Navigation  
Modal Boxes  
Progress Bars  
Parallax  
Login Form  
HTML Includes  
Google Maps  
Range Sliders  
Tooltips  
Slideshow  
Filter List  
Sort List

SHARE



Certificates
HTML
CSS
JavaScript
Python
SQL
PHP
And more

ADVERTISEMENT



ADVERTISEMENT

---

ADVERTISEMENT



---

REPORT ERROR

FORUM

ABOUT

SHOP

---

## Top Tutorials

[HTML Tutorial](#)  
[CSS Tutorial](#)

## Top References

[HTML Reference](#)  
[CSS Reference](#)

JavaScript Tutorial  
How To Tutorial  
SQL Tutorial  
Python Tutorial  
W3.CSS Tutorial  
Bootstrap Tutorial  
PHP Tutorial  
Java Tutorial  
C++ Tutorial  
jQuery Tutorial

## Top Examples

HTML Examples  
CSS Examples  
JavaScript Examples  
How To Examples  
SQL Examples  
Python Examples  
W3.CSS Examples  
Bootstrap Examples  
PHP Examples  
Java Examples  
XML Examples  
jQuery Examples

JavaScript Reference  
SQL Reference  
Python Reference  
W3.CSS Reference  
Bootstrap Reference  
PHP Reference  
HTML Colors  
Java Reference  
Angular Reference  
jQuery Reference

## Web Certificates

HTML Certificate  
CSS Certificate  
JavaScript Certificate  
SQL Certificate  
Python Certificate  
PHP Certificate  
Bootstrap Certificate  
XML Certificate  
jQuery Certificate

[Get Certified »](#)

---

W3Schools is optimized for learning and training. Examples might be simplified to improve reading and learning. Tutorials, references, and examples are constantly reviewed to avoid errors, but we cannot warrant full correctness of all content. While using W3Schools, you agree to have read and accepted our terms of use, cookie and privacy policy.

Copyright 1999-2020 by Refsnes Data. All Rights Reserved.  
W3Schools is Powered by W3.CSS.

