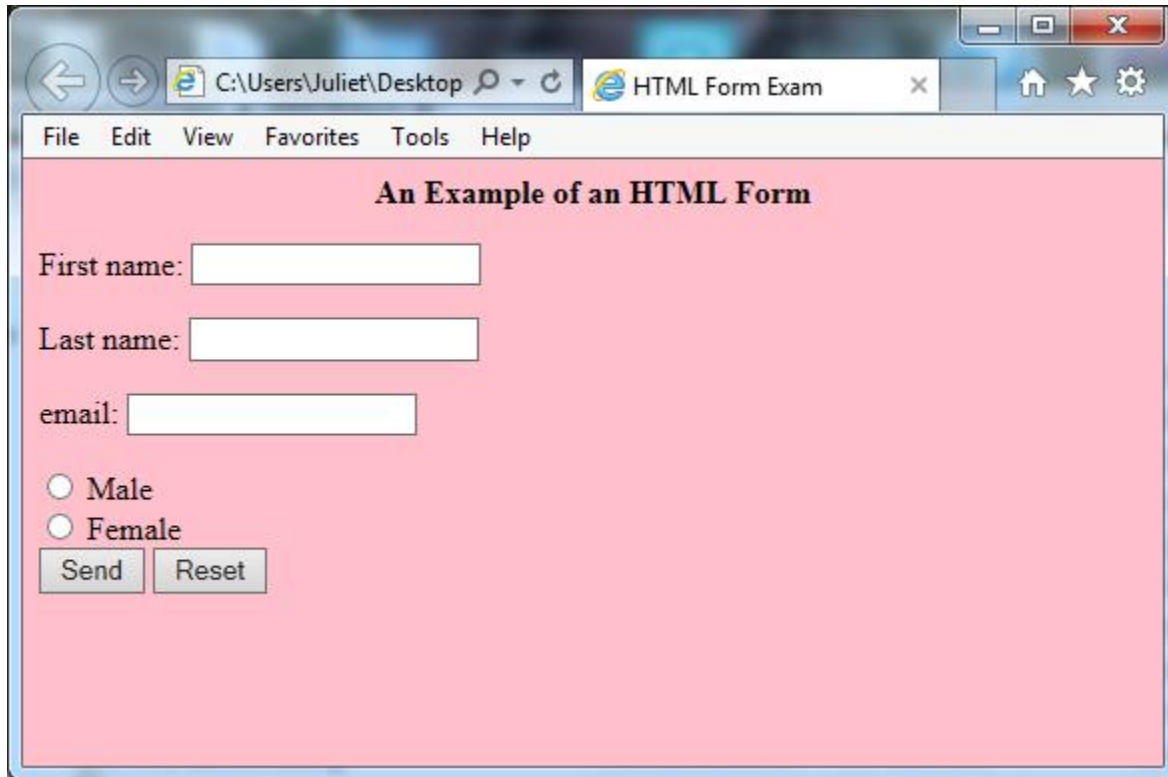**HTML Forms**

What is an HTML form?

(i) An HTML form is a section of a HTML page containing normal content and special elements called *controls* (checkboxes, radio buttons, menus, etc.), and labels on those controls. Users generally "complete" a form by modifying its controls (entering text, selecting menu items, etc.), before submitting the form to an agent for processing (e.g., to a Web server, to a mail server, etc.).

(ii) A web form or HTML form on a web page allows a user to enter data that is sent to a server for processing. Forms can resemble paper or database forms because web users fill out the forms using checkboxes, radio buttons, or text fields. For example, forms can be used to enter shipping or credit card data to order a product, or can be used to retrieve search results from a search engine.

HTML forms are created using the following tags:-

HTML tags

Opening tag	Description	Closing tag
<form>	Used to create an HTML form for user input.	</form>
<input>	Defines an input control. Input tag attributes include:- Type, name, value and size.	Not required
<textarea>	Defines a multi-line text input control	</textarea>
<label>	Defines a label for an input element. Label tag uses "for" attribute.	</label>
<select>	Defines a select list (drop-down list).	Not required
<option>	Defines an option in a select list	</option>
<button>	Defines a push button	</button>

An example of an HTML Form

A form can contain input elements like text fields, checkboxes, radio-buttons, password fields etc. A form can also contain select lists and textarea elements.

The <form> tag is used to create an HTML form as illustrated below:-

```
< form>
input elements
…..
< /form>
```

HTML Forms - The Input Element

The most important form element is the input element. The input element is used to select user information. An input element can vary in many ways, depending on the type attribute. An input element can be of type text field, checkbox, password, radio button, submit button, and more.

Examples of HTML form control elements:-

1. **Text Fields**

<input type="text" /> defines a one-line input field that a user can enter text into.

Example

< form>
<label for="First name">First name:</label>< input type="text" name="firstname" />
label for="Last name">last name:</label>Last name:< input type="text" name="lastname" />
< /form>

How the HTML code above looks in a browser:

First name:
Last name:

2. **Password Field**

<input type="password" /> defines a password field.

Example

< form>
Password:< input type="password" name="pwd" />
< /form>

How the HTML code above looks in a browser:

Password:

Note: The characters in a password field are masked (shown as asterisks or circles).

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3. Radio Buttons

<input type="radio" /> defines a radio button. Radio buttons let a user select ONLY ONE of a limited number of choices.

Example

< form>

< input type="radio" name="sex" value="male" /> Male

< input type="radio" name="sex" value="female" /> Female

< /form>

How the HTML code above looks in a browser:

○ Male

○ Female

4. Checkboxes

<input type="checkbox" /> defines a checkbox. Checkboxes let a user select ONE or MORE options of a limited number of choices.

Example:

< form>

< input type="checkbox" name="vehicle" value="Bike" /> I have a bike

< input type="checkbox" name="vehicle" value="Car" /> I have a car

< /form>

How the HTML code above looks in a browser:

☐ I have a bike

☐ I have a car

5. Submit Button

<button type="submit" /> defines a submit button.

A submit button is used to send form data to a server. The data is sent to the page specified in the form's action attribute. The file defined in the action attribute usually does something with the received input:

Example:

< form name="input" action="html_form_action.asp" method="get">
Username:< input type="text" name="user" />
< button type="submit" value="Submit"> Submit</button>
< /form>

How the HTML code above looks in a browser:

Username: [   ] Submit

If you type some characters in the text field above, and click the "Submit" button, the browser will send your input to a page called "html_form_action.asp". The page will show you the received input.

6. Drop down menu

A dropdown menu is a toggleable menu that allows the user to choose one value from a predefined list.

The <select> Element

The <select> element defines a **drop-down list**:

Example:

<select id="cars" name="cars">

 <option value="toyota">Toyata</option>

 <option value="subaru">Subaru</option>

 <option value="nissan">Nissan</option>

</select>

Note: The <option> element defines an option that can be selected. By default, the first item in the drop-down list is selected.

Visible Values:-Use the size attribute to specify the number of visible values:

Example:

<select id="cars" name="cars" size="3">

 <option value="toyota">Toyata</option>

 <option value="subaru">Subaru</option>

 <option value="nissan">Nissan</option>

</select>

---

7. **Text area**

The <textarea> tag defines a multi-line text input control. A text area can hold an unlimited number of characters, and the text renders in a fixed-width font (usually Courier).

The size of a text area can be specified by the cols and rows attributes.

Example:

```
<form>

<p>Post your comments below:</p>

<textarea  rows="4" cols="50">

</textarea>
```

9. Reset Button

<button type="reset" /> defines a reset button.

The Reset button resets the form-data to its initial values.

Command syntax:

<button type="reset" value="Reset">Reset</button>