

# **DTD** - Attributes

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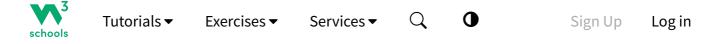
In a DTD, attributes are declared with an ATTLIST declaration.

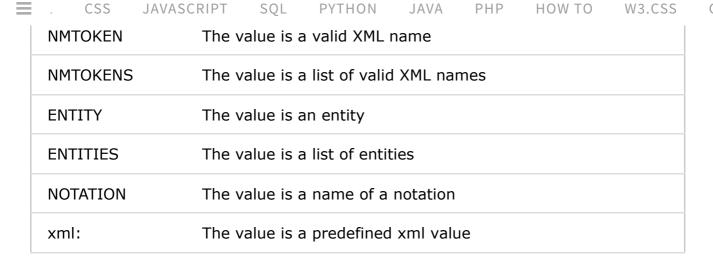
# **Declaring Attributes**

An attribute declaration has the following syntax:

The **attribute-type** can be one of the following:

Туре	Description
CDATA	The value is character data
(en1 en2 )	The value must be one from an enumerated list
ID	The value is a unique id

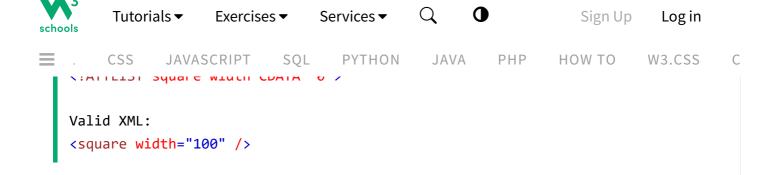




#### The **attribute-value** can be one of the following:

Value	Explanation
value	The default value of the attribute
#REQUIRED	The attribute is required
#IMPLIED	The attribute is optional
#FIXED value	The attribute value is fixed

## A Default Attribute Value



In the example above, the "square" element is defined to be an empty element with a "width" attribute of type CDATA. If no width is specified, it has a default value of 0.

# #REQUIRED

## **Syntax**

```
<!ATTLIST element-name attribute-name attribute-type #REQUIRED>
```

### Example

```
DTD:
    <!ATTLIST person number CDATA #REQUIRED>

Valid XML:
    <person number="5677" />

Invalid XML:
    <person />
```

Use the #REQUIRED keyword if you don't have an option for a default value, but still want to force the attribute to be present.

## **#IMPLIED**

#### **Syntax**

### Example

```
DTD:
    <!ATTLIST contact fax CDATA #IMPLIED>

Valid XML:
    <contact fax="555-667788" />

Valid XML:
    <contact />
```

Use the #IMPLIED keyword if you don't want to force the author to include an attribute, and you don't have an option for a default value.

## #FIXED

### **Syntax**

```
<!ATTLIST element-name attribute-name attribute-type #FIXED "value">
```

#### Example

```
DTD:
    <!ATTLIST sender company CDATA #FIXED "Microsoft">

Valid XML:
    <sender company="Microsoft" />
```



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Use the #FIXED keyword when you want an attribute to have a fixed value without allowing the author to change it. If an author includes another value, the XML parser will return an error.

## **Enumerated Attribute Values**

#### **Syntax**

```
<!ATTLIST element-name attribute-name (en1|en2|..) default-value>
```

### Example

```
DTD:
    <!ATTLIST payment type (check|cash) "cash">

XML example:
    <payment type="check" />
    or
    <payment type="cash" />
```

Use enumerated attribute values when you want the attribute value to be one of a fixed set of legal values.

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