



XPath Nodes

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

XPath Terminology

Nodes

In XPath, there are seven kinds of nodes: element, attribute, text, namespace, processing-instruction, comment, and root nodes.

XML documents are treated as trees of nodes. The topmost element of the tree is called the root element.

Look at the following XML document:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>

<bookstore>
  <book>
    <title lang="en">Harry Potter</title>
    <author>J K. Rowling</author>
    <year>2005</year>
    <price>29.99</price>
  </book>
</bookstore>
```

Example of nodes in the XML document above:

```
</author> /> J K. Rowling</author> /> (element node)
```

```
lang="en" (attribute node)
```

Atomic values

Atomic values are nodes with no children or parent.

Example of atomic values:

```
J K. Rowling
```

```
"en"
```

Items

Items are atomic values or nodes.

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Relationship of Nodes

Parent

```
<book>
  <title>Harry Potter</title>
  <author>J K. Rowling</author>
  <year>2005</year>
  <price>29.99</price>
</book>
```

Children

Element nodes may have zero, one or more children.

In the following example; the title, author, year, and price elements are all children of the book element:

```
<book>
  <title>Harry Potter</title>
  <author>J K. Rowling</author>
  <year>2005</year>
  <price>29.99</price>
</book>
```

Siblings

Nodes that have the same parent.

In the following example; the title, author, year, and price elements are all siblings:

```
<book>
  <title>Harry Potter</title>
  <author>J K. Rowling</author>
  <year>2005</year>
```

Ancestors

A node's parent, parent's parent, etc.

In the following example; the ancestors of the title element are the book element and the bookstore element:

```
<bookstore>

<book>
  <title>Harry Potter</title>
  <author>J K. Rowling</author>
  <year>2005</year>
  <price>29.99</price>
</book>

</bookstore>
```

Descendants

A node's children, children's children, etc.

In the following example; descendants of the bookstore element are the book, title, author, year, and price elements:

```
<bookstore>

<book>
  <title>Harry Potter</title>
  <author>J K. Rowling</author>
  <year>2005</year>
  <price>29.99</price>
</book>

</bookstore>
```



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