

XQuery Syntax

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

XQuery is case-sensitive and XQuery elements, attributes, and variables must be valid XML names.

XQuery Basic Syntax Rules

Some basic syntax rules:

- XQuery is case-sensitive
- XQuery elements, attributes, and variables must be valid XML names
- An XQuery string value can be in single or double quotes
- An XQuery variable is defined with a \$ followed by a name, e.g. \$bookstore
- XQuery comments are delimited by (: and :), e.g. (: XQuery Comment :)

The XML Example Document

We will use the "books.xml" document in the examples below (same XML file as in the previous chapters).

[View the "books.xml" file in your browser.](#)

XQuery Conditional Expressions

"If-Then-Else" expressions are allowed in XQuery.

Look at the following example:

```

<child>{data($x/title)}/</child>
else <adult>{data($x/title)}</adult>

```

Notes on the "if-then-else" syntax: parentheses around the if expression are required. else is required, but it can be just else ().

The result of the example above will be:

```

<adult>Everyday Italian</adult>
<child>Harry Potter</child>
<adult>XQuery Kick Start</adult>
<adult>Learning XML</adult>

```

XQuery Comparisons

In XQuery there are two ways of comparing values.

1. General comparisons: =, !=, <, <=, >, >=
2. Value comparisons: eq, ne, lt, le, gt, ge

The difference between the two comparison methods are shown below.

The following expression returns true if any q attributes have a value greater than 10:

```
$bookstore//book/@q > 10
```

The following expression returns true if there is only one q attribute returned by the expression, and its value is greater than 10. If more than one q is returned, an error occurs:

[Tutorials ▼](#)[Exercises ▼](#)[Services ▼](#)[Sign Up](#)[Log in](#)[≡](#) [.](#) [CSS](#) [JAVASCRIPT](#) [SQL](#) [PYTHON](#) [JAVA](#) [PHP](#) [HOW TO](#) [W3.CSS](#) [C](#)[< Previous](#)[Next >](#)

W3schools Pathfinder

Track your progress - it's free!

[Sign Up](#)[Log in](#)

Up to
53%
On all Career paths

[Start Today!](#)



COLOR PICKER





Tutorials ▼

Exercises ▼

Services ▼



Sign Up

Log in

☰ . CSS JAVASCRIPT SQL PYTHON JAVA PHP HOW TO W3.CSS C

[Tutorials ▼](#)[Exercises ▼](#)[Services ▼](#)[Sign Up](#)[Log in](#)[CSS](#) [JAVASCRIPT](#) [SQL](#) [PYTHON](#) [JAVA](#) [PHP](#) [HOW TO](#) [W3.CSS](#) [C](#)[SPACES](#)[UPGRADE](#)[AD-FREE](#)[NEWSLETTER](#)[GET CERTIFIED](#)[CONTACT US](#)

Top Tutorials

[HTML Tutorial](#)
[CSS Tutorial](#)
[JavaScript Tutorial](#)
[How To Tutorial](#)
[SQL Tutorial](#)
[Python Tutorial](#)
[W3.CSS Tutorial](#)
[Bootstrap Tutorial](#)
[PHP Tutorial](#)
[Java Tutorial](#)
[C++ Tutorial](#)
[jQuery Tutorial](#)

Top References

[HTML Reference](#)
[CSS Reference](#)
[JavaScript Reference](#)
[SQL Reference](#)
[Python Reference](#)
[W3.CSS Reference](#)
[Bootstrap Reference](#)
[PHP Reference](#)
[HTML Colors](#)
[Java Reference](#)
[Angular Reference](#)
[jQuery Reference](#)

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](#)

Get Certified

[HTML Certificate](#)
[CSS Certificate](#)
[JavaScript Certificate](#)
[Front End Certificate](#)
[SQL Certificate](#)
[Python Certificate](#)
[PHP Certificate](#)
[jQuery Certificate](#)
[Java Certificate](#)
[C++ Certificate](#)
[C# Certificate](#)
[XML Certificate](#)

[Tutorials ▼](#)[Exercises ▼](#)[Services ▼](#)[Sign Up](#)[Log in](#)



CSS

JAVASCRIPT

SQL

PYTHON

JAVA

PHP

HOW TO

W3.CSS

C

[FORUM](#) [ABOUT](#) [CLASSROOM](#)

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 1999-2024 by Refsnes Data. All Rights Reserved. W3Schools is Powered by W3.CSS.