

# XPath Axes

Previous

Next >

# The XML Example Document

We will use the following XML document in the examples below.

## XPath Axes

An axis represents a relationship to the context (current) node, and is used to locate nodes relative to that node on the tree.

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

| ancestor-or-self   | Selects all ancestors (parent, grandparent, etc.) of the current node and the current node itself                            |
|--------------------|--|
| attribute          | Selects all attributes of the current node   |
| child              | Selects all children of the current node   |
| descendant         | Selects all descendants (children, grandchildren, etc.) of the current node  |
| descendant-or-self | Selects all descendants (children, grandchildren, etc.) of the current node and the current node itself                      |
| following          | Selects everything in the document after the closing tag of the current node   |
| following-sibling  | Selects all siblings after the current node  |
| namespace          | Selects all namespace nodes of the current node  |
| parent             | Selects the parent of the current node   |
| preceding          | Selects all nodes that appear before the current node in the document, except ancestors, attribute nodes and namespace nodes |
| preceding-sibling  | Selects all siblings before the current node   |
| self               | Selects the current node   |

ADVERTISEMENT



Tutorials **▼** Exercises **▼** Services **▼** Sign Up Log in

CSS JAVASCRIPT SQL PYTHON JAVA

PHP HOW TO W3.CSS

A location path can be absolute or relative.

An absolute location path starts with a slash ( / ) and a relative location path does not. In both cases the location path consists of one or more steps, each separated by a slash:

An absolute location path:

/step/step/...

A relative location path:

step/step/...

Each step is evaluated against the nodes in the current node-set.

A step consists of:

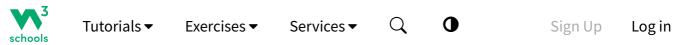
- an axis (defines the tree-relationship between the selected nodes and the current node)
- a node-test (identifies a node within an axis)
- zero or more predicates (to further refine the selected node-set)

The syntax for a location step is:

axisname::nodetest[predicate]

## **Examples**

| Example         | Result   |
|-----------------|--|
| child::book     | Selects all book nodes that are children of the current node |
| attribute::lang | Selects the lang attribute of the current node               |
| child::*        | Selects all element children of the current node             |



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

| child::node()          | Selects all children of the current node  |
|------------------------|---|
| descendant::book       | Selects all book descendants of the current node  |
| ancestor::book         | Selects all book ancestors of the current node  |
| ancestor-or-self::book | Selects all book ancestors of the current node - and the current as well if it is a book node |
| child::*/child::price  | Selects all price grandchildren of the current node   |

Previous

Next >

**W3schools Pathfinder** Track your progress - it's free! Sign Up Log in

**ADVERTISEMENT** 



Services ▼ Q Sign Up Log in Tutorials **▼** Exercises **▼** 

= . CSS JAVASCRIPT SQL

PYTHON

JAVA PHP

HOW TO

W3.CSS

Level up with **XML Course** Gain skills, and get certified **Start Today!** 

**COLOR PICKER** 



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

ADVERTISEMENT

ADVERTISEMENT



Tutorials **▼** Exercises **▼** Services ▼ Q Sign Up Log in

W3.CSS

C



**ADVERTISEMENT** 



**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





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











#### 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.

 $\underline{\text{Copyright 1999-2024}}$  by Refsnes Data. All Rights Reserved.  $\underline{\text{W3Schools is Powered by W3.CSS}}$ .