

# XSD Empty Elements

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An empty complex element cannot have contents, only attributes.

## Complex Empty Elements

An empty XML element:

```
<product prodid="1345" />
```

The "product" element above has no content at all. To define a type with no content, we must define a type that allows elements in its content, but we do not actually declare any elements, like this:

```
<xs:element name="product">
  <xs:complexType>
    <xs:complexContent>
      <xs:restriction base="xs:integer">
        <xs:attribute name="prodid" type="xs:positiveInteger"/>
      </xs:restriction>
    </xs:complexContent>
  </xs:complexType>
</xs:element>
```

However, it is possible to declare the "product" element more compactly, like this:

```
<xs:element name="product">
  <xs:complexType>
    <xs:attribute name="prodid" type="xs:positiveInteger"/>
  </xs:complexType>
</xs:element>
```

Or you can give the complexType element a name, and let the "product" element have a type attribute that refers to the name of the complexType (if you use this method, several elements can refer to the same complex type):

```
<xs:element name="product" type="prodtype"/>

<xs:complexType name="prodtype">
  <xs:attribute name="prodid" type="xs:positiveInteger"/>
</xs:complexType>
```

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