

HTML TIPS & TRICKS

The Hidden Gems

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PREFACE

HTML, CSS, and JavaScript are foundational pillars of web development.

Today, there are a lot of HTML documentation resources. For example, the Mozilla Developers Network (MDN), which I use and highly recommend to everyone.

Just like other resources, HTML documentation can be very detailed. Therefore, it's easy to miss out on some very useful features.

This book is focused on those hidden HTML gems.

I want to give special credit to my friend George Moller ( [@_georgemoller](https://twitter.com/_georgemoller)) who made this book possible. He has amazing presentation skills, and I strongly recommend you to follow his work.

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1.0

THE LOADING='LAZY' ATTRIBUTE

You can use the `loading=lazy` attribute to defer the loading of the image until the user scrolls to them.

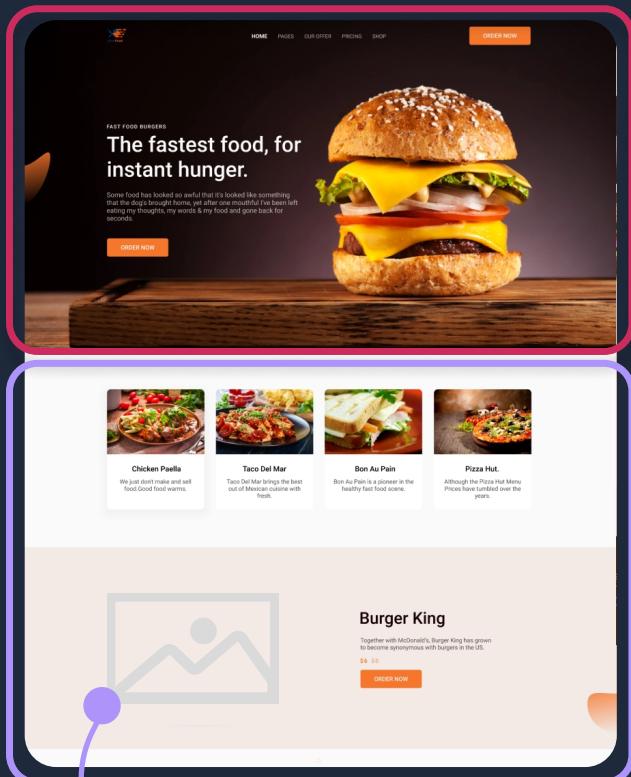
HOW TO USE IT?



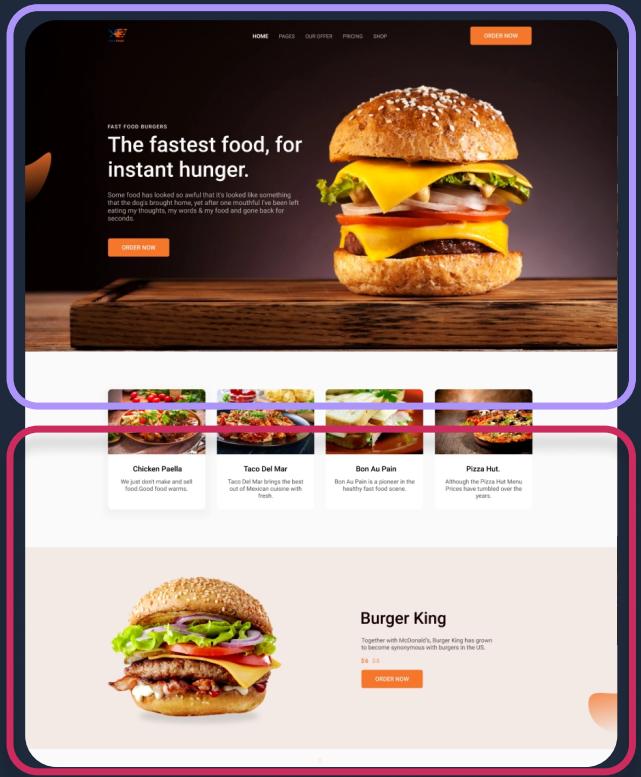
```
<img src='image.jpg' loading='lazy' alt='Alternative Text'>
```

EXAMPLE

User's visible area



Non visible area



Non visible area
image with `lazy='loading'`
attribute

Request is not sent to the server to download image yet.

User's visible area

Request is sent to the server to download image.

LINK TO DOCUMENTATION

https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/Performance/Lazy_loading

2.0

THE <DATALIST> ELEMENT

The <datalist> tag is used to provide an "autocomplete" feature for <input> elements.

HOW TO USE IT?

```
<div class="wrapper">
  <h1>
    Native HTML Search
  </h1>

  <input list="items">

  <datalist id="items">
    <option value="Marko Denic">
    <option value="FreeCodeCamp">
    <option value="FreeCodeTools">
    <option value="Web Development">
    <option value="Web Developer">
  </datalist>
</div>
```

EXAMPLE

Native HTML Search

Marko Denic

FreeCodeCamp

FreeCodeTools

Web Development

Web Developer

Native HTML Search

Marko Denic

LINK TO CODEPEN

<https://codepen.io/denic/pen/WNQbvbo>

LINK TO DOCUMENTATION

<https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTML/Element/datalist>

3.0

THE EMAIL, CALL, AND SMS LINKS

You can create an email, call and sms link by adding the `mailto:`, `tel:` and `sms:` prefix to an anchor element.

HOW TO USE IT?



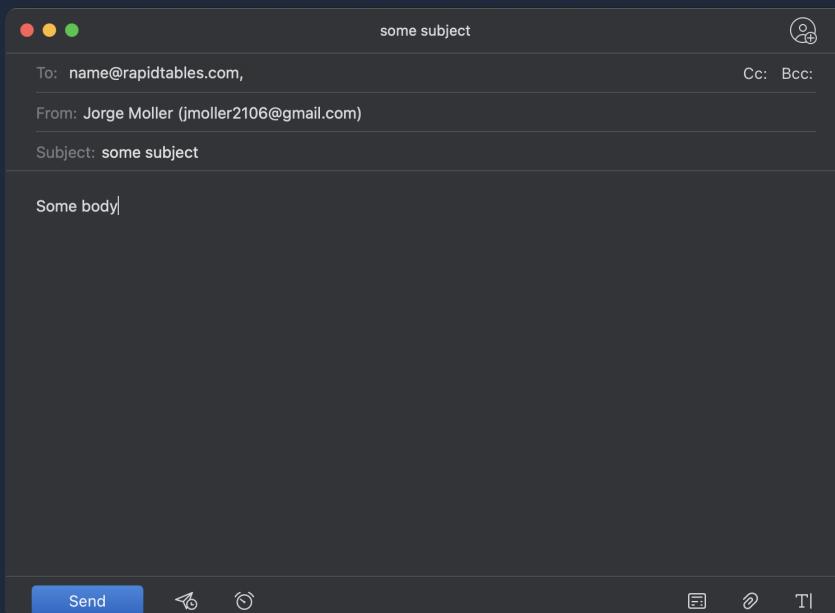
```
<a href="mailto:{email}?subject={subject}&body={content}">  
  Send us an email  
</a>
```

```
<a href="tel:{phone}">  
  Call us  
</a>
```

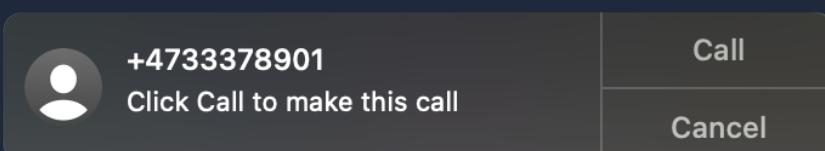
```
<a href="sms:{phone}?body={content}">  
  Send us a message  
</a>
```

EXAMPLE

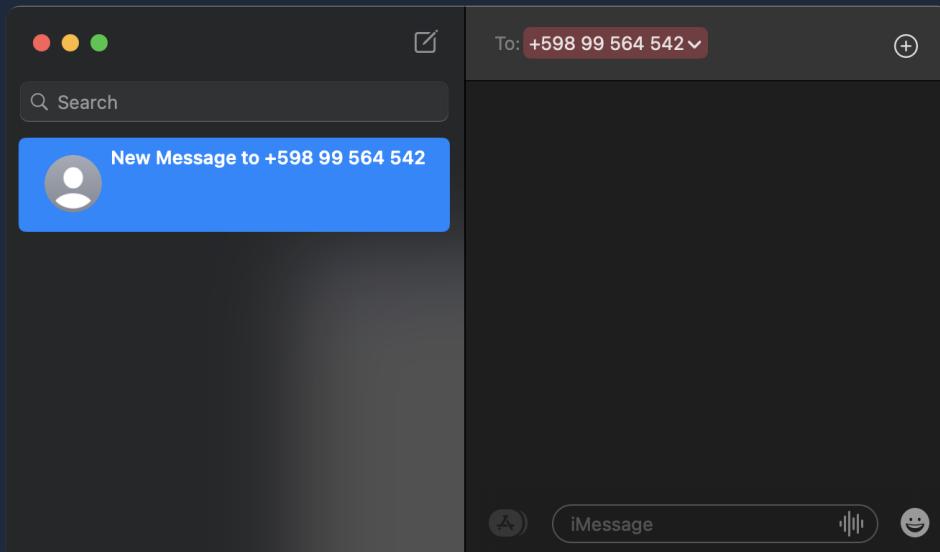
Send us an email



Call us



Send us a message



LINK TO DOCUMENTATION

<https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTML/Element/a>

4.0

THE START ATTRIBUTE TO ORDER LISTS

You can use the `start` attribute to change the starting point for your ordered lists.

HOW TO USE IT?



```
<ol start="11">
  <li>HTML</li>
  <li>CSS</li>
  <li>JavaScript</li>
  <li>Python</li>
  <li>Go</li>
</ol>
```

EXAMPLE

11. HTML
12. CSS
13. JavaScript
14. Python
15. Go

LINK TO CODEPEN

<https://codepen.io/denic/pen/ExXgrew>

LINK TO DOCUMENTATION

<https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTML/Element/ol#attr-start>

5.0

THE TYPE RESET ATTRIBUTE

You can use `<input type="reset">` to create a clear button for your forms.

HOW TO USE IT?

```
<form>
  <label for="id">First name:</label>
  <input type="text" id="firstname" name="firstname" />

  <label for="id">Last name:</label>
  <input type="text" id="lastname" name="lastname" />

  <div class="controls">
    <input type="reset" value="Reset">
    <input type="submit" value="Submit">
  </div>
</form>
```

EXAMPLE

First name:

John

Last name:

Doe

RESET

SUBMIT



1. User clicks on reset button

First name:

Last name:

RESET

SUBMIT

2. Inputs get cleared

LINK TO CODEPEN

<https://codepen.io/denic/pen/poRVXoB>

LINK TO DOCUMENTATION

<https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTML/Element/input/reset>

6.0

THE <METER> ELEMENT

You can use the `<meter>` element to display quantities.

No JavaScript/CSS is needed.

HOW TO USE IT?



```
<label for="value1">Low</label>
<meter id="value1" min="0" max="100" low="30" high="75" optimum="80" value="25"></meter>

<label for="value2">Medium</label>
<meter id="value2" min="0" max="100" low="30" high="75" optimum="80" value="50"></meter>

<label for="value3">High</label>
<meter id="value3" min="0" max="100" low="30" high="75" optimum="80" value="80"></meter>
```

value: the current numeric value. This must be between the minimum and maximum values (min attribute and max attribute) if they are specified.

min: the lower numeric bound of the measured range. This must be less than the maximum value (max attribute), if specified. If unspecified, the minimum value is 0.

max: the upper numeric bound of the measured range. This must be greater than the minimum value (min attribute), if specified. If unspecified, the maximum value is 1.

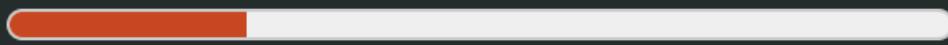
low: the upper numeric bound of the low end of the measured range. This must be greater than the minimum value (min attribute), and it also must be less than the high value and maximum value.

high: the lower numeric bound of the high end of the measured range. This must be less than the maximum value (max attribute), and it also must be greater than the low value and minimum value

optimum: this attribute indicates the optimal numeric value. It must be within the range (as defined by the min attribute and max attribute).

EXAMPLE

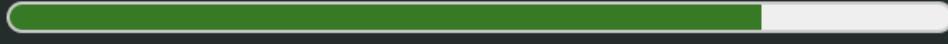
Low



Medium



High



LINK TO CODEPEN

<https://codepen.io/denic/pen/MWbJRxe>

LINK TO DOCUMENTATION

<https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTML/Element/meter>

7.0

WINDOW.OPENER

Pages opened with `target="_blank"` allow the new page to access the original's `window.opener`. This can have security and performance implications. Include `rel="noopener"` or `rel="noreferrer"` to prevent this.

HOW TO USE IT?



```
<a href="https://markodenic.com/" target="_blank" rel="noopener">  
  Marko's website  
</a>
```

LINK TO DOCUMENTATION

https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTML/Link_types/noopener

8.0

THE BASE ELEMENT

If you want to open all links in the document in a new tab, you can use `<base>` element:

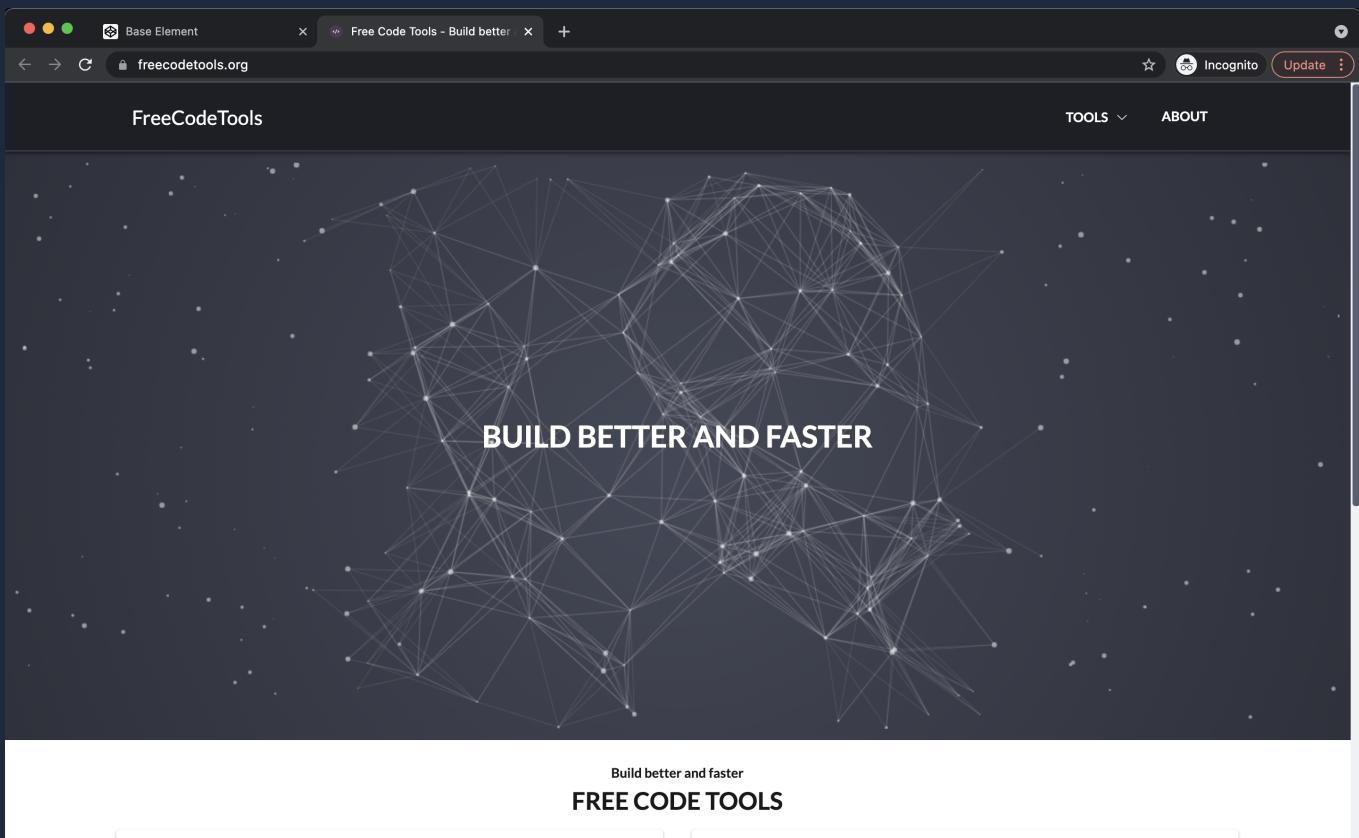
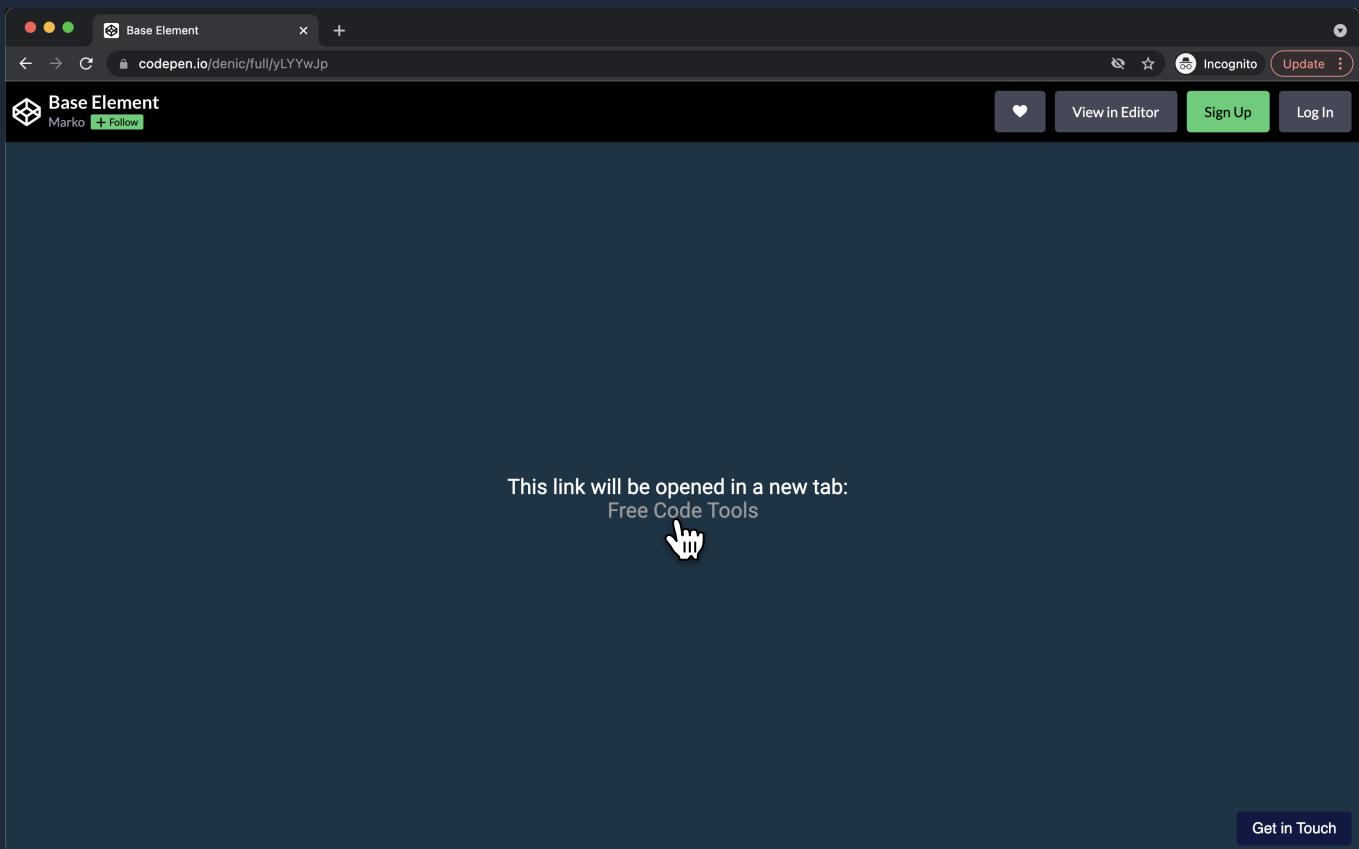
HOW TO USE IT?



```
<head>
  <base target="_blank">
</head>

<div class="wrapper">
  This link will be opened in a new tab: &nbsp;
  <a href="https://freecodetools.org/">
    Free Code Tools
  </a>
</div>
```

EXAMPLE



LINK TO CODEPEN

<https://codepen.io/denic/full/yLYwJp>

LINK TO DOCUMENTATION

<https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTML/Element/base>

9.0

FAVICON CACHE BUSTING

To refresh your website's favicon you can force browsers to download a new version by adding ?v=2 to the filename.

HOW TO USE IT?



```
<link rel="icon" href="/favicon.ico?v=2" />
```

10

NATIVE HTML SLIDERS

You can use `<input type="range">` to create native HTML sliders.

HOW TO USE IT?

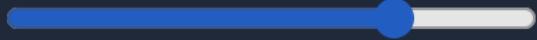


```
<label for="volume">Volume: </label>
<input type="range" id="volume" name="volume" min="0" max="20">

<label for="result">Your choice: </label>
<input type="number" id="result" name="result">
```

EXAMPLE

Volume:



Your choice:

15

LINK TO CODEPEN

<https://codepen.io/denic/pen/bGBrLRz>

LINK TO DOCUMENTATION

<https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTML/Element/input/range>

11

HTML ACCORDION

The `<details>` tag specifies additional details that the user can open and close on demand.

HOW TO USE IT?

```
● ● ●  
<div class="wrapper">  
  <details>  
    <summary>  
      Click me to see more details  
    </summary>  
  
    <p>  
      Here are more details!  
    </p>  
  </details>  
</div>
```

EXAMPLE

 Click me to see more details

▼ Click me to see more details

Here are more details!

LINK TO CODEPEN

<https://codepen.io/denic/pen/PozobRO>

LINK TO DOCUMENTATION

<https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTML/Element/details>

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THE <MARK> ELEMENT

You can use the `<mark>` element to highlight text.

HOW TO USE IT?



```
<p>Don't forget to be <mark>awesome</mark> today</p>
```

EXAMPLE

Don't forget to be awesome today

LINK TO CODEPEN

<https://codepen.io/denic/pen/NWwmjoZ>

LINK TO DOCUMENTATION

<https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTML/Element/mark>

THE TYPE SEARCH ATTRIBUTE

Use the `type="search"` for your search inputs and you get the "clear" button for free.

HOW TO USE IT?



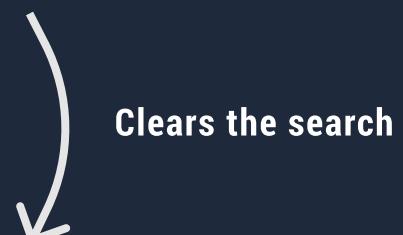
```
<form>
  <label for="text">Search movies:</label>
  <input type="search" id="text" name="text" />
</form>
```

EXAMPLE

Search movies:

Search movies:



LINK TO CODEPEN

<https://codepen.io/denic/pen/vYxOgLv>

LINK TO DOCUMENTATION

<https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTML/Element/input/search>

THE DOWNLOAD ATTRIBUTE

You can use the `download` attribute in your links to download the file instead of navigating to it.

HOW TO USE IT?



```
<a href="path/to/file" download>  
  Download  
</a>
```

EXAMPLE



LINK TO DOCUMENTATION

<https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTML/Element/a#attr-download>

THE .WEBP IMAGE FORMAT

Use the ` `.webp` image format to make images smaller and boost the performance of your website.

HOW TO USE IT?



```
<picture>
  <!-- load .webp image if supported -->
  <source srcset="logo.webp" type="image/webp">

  <!--
    Fallback if ` `.webp` images or <picture> tag
    not supported by the browser.
  -->
  
</picture>
```

CURRENT SUPPORT

IE	Edge	Firefox	Chrome	Safari	Opera
			4-8		10.1
			1 9-22		1 11.5
	12-17	2-64	2 23-31	3.1-13.1	2 12.1-18
6-10	18-96	65-94	32-96	3 14-15.1	19-81
11	97	95	97	3 15.2	82
		96-97	98-100	3 TP	

LINK TO DOCUMENTATION

https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/Media/Formats/Image_types#webp_image

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THE POSTER ATTRIBUTE

Use the `poster` attribute to specify an image to be shown while the video is downloading, or until the user hits the play button.

HOW TO USE IT?



```
<video poster="path/to/image">
```

EXAMPLE



```
<video poster="dog-cover.jpeg">
```

NOTHING TO SHOW WHILE DOWNLOADING THE VIDEO.



```
<video ...>
```

LINK TO DOCUMENTATION

<https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTML/Element/video#attr-poster>

THE SPELLCHECK ATTRIBUTE

Use the spellcheck attribute to define whether the element may be checked for spelling errors.

HOW TO USE IT?



```
<label for="food-input">Enter a food:</label>
<input type="text" id="food-input" spellcheck="true">
```

EXAMPLE

Enter a food:



Highlights the error in the word.

LINK TO CODEPEN

<https://codepen.io/denic/pen/NWboEgO>

LINK TO DOCUMENTATION

https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTML/Global_attributes/spellcheck

THE OPTGROUP ELEMENT

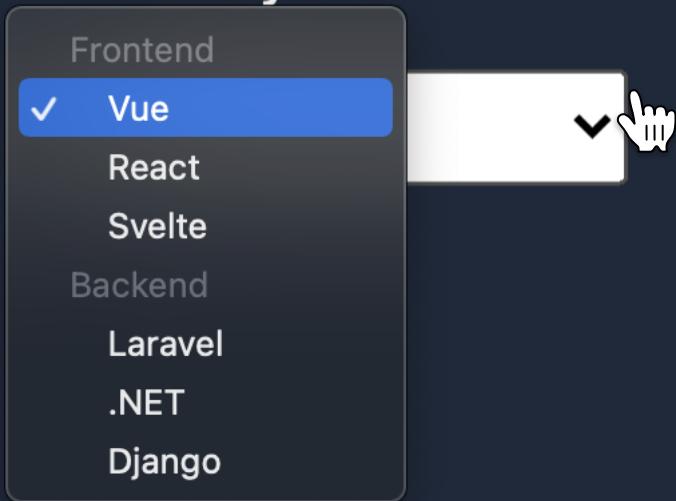
Use the `<optgroup>` element to create a grouping of options within a `<select>` element.

HOW TO USE IT?

```
<label for="framework">
  Choose your framework:
</label>
<select id="framework">
  <optgroup label="Frontend">
    <option>Vue</option>
    <option>React</option>
    <option>Svelte</option>
  </optgroup>
  <optgroup label="Backend">
    <option>Laravel</option>
    <option>.NET</option>
    <option>Django</option>
  </optgroup>
</select>
```

EXAMPLE

Choose your framework:



LINK TO CODEPEN

<https://codepen.io/denic/pen/PomKzVW>

LINK TO DOCUMENTATION

<https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTML/Element/optgroup>

THE FIELDSET ELEMENT

You can use the `<fieldset>` element to group several controls as well as labels (`<label>`) within a web form.

HOW TO USE IT?



```
<form>
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Choose your favorite language</legend>

    <input type="radio" id="javascript" name="language">
    <label for="javascript">JavaScript</label><br/>

    <input type="radio" id="python" name="language">
    <label for="python">Python</label><br/>

    <input type="radio" id="java" name="language">
    <label for="java">Java</label>
  </fieldset>
</form>
```

EXAMPLE

Choose your favorite language

- JavaScript
- Python
- Java

Border surrounding legend and inputs due to fieldset element.

LINK TO CODEPEN

<https://codepen.io/denic/pen/BaNXWNj>

LINK TO DOCUMENTATION

<https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTML/Element/fieldset>

20

THE ABBR ELEMENT

Use the `<abbr>` element to represent an abbreviation or acronym.

HOW TO USE IT?



```
<abbr title="Cascading Style Sheets">CSS</abbr> is awesome.
```

EXAMPLE

CSS is awesome.

LINK TO CODEPEN

<https://codepen.io/denic/pen/PomKzVW>

LINK TO DOCUMENTATION

<https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTML/Element/optgroup>

I hope you enjoyed reading.

If you have any questions, you can contact me here:

<http://markodenic.com/contact>

- Denic Marko