HTML Form Elements

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This chapter describes all the different HTML form elements.

The <input> Element

One of the most used form element is the `<input>` element.

The `<input>` element can be displayed in several ways, depending on the `type` attribute.

Example

```
<input type="text" id="firstname" name="firstname">
```

Try it Yourself »

If the `type` attribute is omitted, the input field gets the default type: "text".

All the different input types are covered in the next chapter: HTML Input Types.

The <select> Element

The `<select>` element defines a **drop-down list**:

```
<select id="cars" name="cars">
  <option value="volvo">Volvo</option>
  <option value="saab">Saab</option>
  <option value="fiat">Fiat</option>
  <option value="audi">Audi</option>
</select>
```

Try it Yourself »

The `<option>` elements defines an option that can be selected.

By default, the first item in the drop-down list is selected.

To define a pre-selected option, add the `selected` attribute to the option:

Example

```
<option value="fiat" selected>Fiat</option>
```

Try it Yourself »

Visible Values:

Use the `size` attribute to specify the number of visible values:

Example

```
<select name="cars" size="3">
  <option value="volvo">Volvo</option>
  <option value="saab">Saab</option>
  <option value="fiat">Fiat</option>
  <option value="audi">Audi</option>
</select>
```

Allow Multiple Selections:

Use the `multiple` attribute to allow the user to select more than one value:

Example

```
<select name="cars" size="4" multiple>
  <option value="volvo">Volvo</option>
  <option value="saab">Saab</option>
  <option value="fiat">Fiat</option>
  <option value="audi">Audi</option>
</select>
```

Try it Yourself »

The <textarea> Element

The `<textarea>` element defines a multi-line input field (**a text area**):

Example

```
<textarea name="message" rows="10" cols="30">
The cat was playing in the garden.
</textarea>
```

Try it Yourself »

The `rows` attribute specifies the visible number of lines in a text area.

The `cols` attribute specifies the visible width of a text area.

This is how the HTML code above will be displayed in a browser:

You can also define the size of the text area by using CSS:

Example

```
<textarea name="message" style="width:200px; height:600px;">
The cat was playing in the garden.
</textarea>
```

Try it Yourself »

The <button> Element

The `<button>` element defines a clickable **button**:

Example

```
<button type="button" onclick="alert('Hello World!')">Click Me!</button>
```

Try it Yourself »

This is how the HTML code above will be displayed in a browser:

Click Me!

The <fieldset> and <legend> Elements

The `<fieldset>` element is used to group related data in a form.

The `<legend>` element defines a caption for the `<fieldset>` element.

Example

```
<form action="/action_page.php">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Personalia:</legend>
    <label for="fname">First name:</label><br>
    <input type="text" id="fname" name="fname" value="John"><br>
    <label for="lname">Last name:</label><br>
    <input type="text" id="lname" name="lname" value="Doe"><br><br>
    <input type="submit" value="Submit">
  </fieldset>
</form>
```

Try it Yourself »

This is how the HTML code above will be displayed in a browser:

Personalia:

First name:

John

Last name:

Doe

Submit

The <datalist> Element

Users will see a drop-down list of the pre-defined options as they input data.

The `list` attribute of the `<input>` element, must refer to the `id` attribute of the `<datalist>` element.

Example

```
<form action="/action_page.php">
  <input list="browsers">
  <datalist id="browsers">
    <option value="Internet Explorer">
    <option value="Firefox">
    <option value="Chrome">
    <option value="Opera">
    <option value="Safari">
  </datalist>
</form>
```

Try it Yourself »

The <output> Element

The `<output>` element represents the result of a calculation (like one performed by a script).

Example

Perform a calculation and show the result in an `<output>` element:

```
<form action="/action_page.php"
  oninput="x.value=parseInt(a.value)+parseInt(b.value)">
  0
  <input type="range"  id="a" name="a" value="50">
  100 +
  <input type="number" id="b" name="b" value="50">
  =
  <output name="x" for="a b"></output>
```

```
</form>
```

Try it Yourself »

HTML Exercises

Test Yourself With Exercises

Exercise:

In the form below, add an empty drop down list with the name "cars".

```
<form action="/action_page.php">
<                    >
</       >
</form>
```

Submit Answer »

Start the Exercise

HTML Form Elements

Tag	Description
<form>	Defines an HTML form for user input
<input>	Defines an input control

<label>	Defines a label for an <input> element
<fieldset>	Groups related elements in a form
<legend>	Defines a caption for a <fieldset> element
<select>	Defines a drop-down list
<optgroup>	Defines a group of related options in a drop-down list
<option>	Defines an option in a drop-down list
<button>	Defines a clickable button
<datalist>	Specifies a list of pre-defined options for input controls
<output>	Defines the result of a calculation

For a complete list of all available HTML tags, visit our HTML Tag Reference.

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