# **HTML Attributes**

In this tutorial you will learn how to use attributes to give more meaning to HTML tags.

## **What are Attributes**

Attributes define additional characteristics or properties of the element such as width and height of an image. Attributes are always specified in the start tag (or opening tag) and usually consist of name/value pairs like name="value". Attribute values should always be enclosed in quotation marks.

Also, some attributes are required for certain elements. For instance, an <img> tag must contain a src and alt attributes. Let's take a look at some examples of the attributes usages:

#### **Example**

[Try this code »](https://www.tutorialrepublic.com/codelab.php?topic=html&file=attributes)

<img src="images/smiley.png" width="30" height="30" alt="Smiley"> <a href="https://www.google.com/" title="Search Engine">Google</a> <abbr title="Hyper Text Markup Language">HTML</abbr> <input type="text" value="John Doe">

In the above example src inside the <img> tag is an attribute and image path provided is its value. Similarly href inside the <a> tag is an attribute and the link provided is its value, and so on.

**Tip:** Both single and double quotes can be used to quote attribute values. However, double quotes are most common. In situations where the attribute value itself contains double quotes it is necessary to wrap the value in single quotes, e.g., value='John "Williams" Jr.'

There are several attributes in HTML5 that do not consist of name/value pairs but consist of just a name. Such attributes are called Boolean attributes. Examples of some commonly used Boolean attributes are checked, disabled, readonly, required, etc.

#### **Example**

[Try this code »](https://www.tutorialrepublic.com/codelab.php?topic=html&file=boolean-attributes)

<input type="email" required> <input type="submit" value="Submit" disabled> <input type="checkbox" checked> <input type="text" value="Read only text" readonly>

You will learn about all these elements in detail in upcoming chapters.

**Note:** Attribute values are generally case-insensitive, except certain attribute values, like the id and class attributes. However, World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) recommends lowercase for attributes values in their specification.

## **General Purpose Attributes**

There are some attributes, such as id, title, class, style, etc. that you can use on the majority of HTML elements. The following section describes their usage.

### **The id Attribute**

The id attribute is used to give a unique name or identifier to an element within a document. This makes it easier to select the element using CSS or JavaScript.

#### **Example**

[Try this code »](https://www.tutorialrepublic.com/codelab.php?topic=html&file=id-attribute)

<input type="text" id="firstName"> <div id="container">Some content</div> <p id="infoText">This is a paragraph.</p>

**Note:** The id of an element must be unique within a single document. No two elements in the same document can be named with the same id, and each element can have only one id.

### **The class Attribute**

Like id attribute, the class attribute is also used to identify elements. But unlike id, the class attribute does not have to be unique in the document. This means you can apply the same class to multiple elements in a document, as shown in the following example:

#### **Example**

[Try this code »](https://www.tutorialrepublic.com/codelab.php?topic=html&file=class-attribute)

<input type="text" class="highlight"> <div class="box highlight">Some content</div> <p class="highlight">This is a paragraph.</p>

**Tip:** Since a class can be applied to multiple elements, therefore any style rules that are written for that class will be applied to all the elements having that class.

### **The title Attribute**

The title attribute to is used to provide advisory text about an element or its content. Try out the following example to understand how this actually works.

#### **Example**

[Try this code »](https://www.tutorialrepublic.com/codelab.php?topic=html&file=title-attribute)

<abbr title="World Wide Web Consortium">W3C</abbr> <a href="images/kites.jpg" title="Click to view a larger image"> <img src="images/kites-thumb.jpg" alt="kites"> </a>

**Tip:** The value of the title attribute (i.e. title text) is displayed as a tooltip by the web browsers when the user place mouse cursor over the element.

### **The style Attribute**

The style attribute allows you to specify CSS styling rules such as color, font, border, etc. directly within the element. Let's check out an example to see how it works:

#### **Example**

[Try this code »](https://www.tutorialrepublic.com/codelab.php?topic=html&file=style-attribute)

<p style="color: blue;">This is a paragraph.</p> <img src="images/sky.jpg" style="width: 300px;" alt="Cloudy Sky"> <div style="border: 1px solid red;">Some content</div>

You will learn more about styling HTML elements in [HTML styles](https://www.tutorialrepublic.com/html-tutorial/html-styles.php) chapter.

The attributes we've discussed above are also called global attributes. For more global attributes please check out the [HTML5 global attributes reference](https://www.tutorialrepublic.com/html-reference/html5-global-attributes.php).

A complete list of attributes for each HTML element is listed inside [HTML5 tag reference](https://www.tutorialrepublic.com/html-reference/html-tag-list.php).