# **HTML Lists**

In this tutorial you will learn how to create different types of lists in HTML.

## **Working with HTML Lists**

HTML lists are used to present list of information in well formed and semantic way. There are three different types of list in HTML and each one has a specific purpose and meaning.

* **Unordered list** — Used to create a list of related items, in no particular order.
* **Ordered list** — Used to create a list of related items, in a specific order.
* **Description list** — Used to create a list of terms and their descriptions.

**Note:** Inside a list item you can put text, images, links, line breaks, etc. You can also place an entire list inside a list item to create the nested list.

In the following sections we will cover all the three types of list one by one:

## **HTML Unordered Lists**

An unordered list created using the <ul> element, and each list item starts with the <li> element.

The list items in unordered lists are marked with bullets. Here's an example:

#### **Example**

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

<ul> <li>Chocolate Cake</li> <li>Black Forest Cake</li> <li>Pineapple Cake</li> </ul>

— The output of the above example will look something like this:

* Chocolate Cake
* Black Forest Cake
* Pineapple Cake

You can also change the bullet type in your unordered list using the CSS [list-style-type](https://www.tutorialrepublic.com/css-reference/css-list-style-type-property.php) property. The following style rule changes the type of bullet from the default *disc* to *square*:

#### **Example**

[Try this code »](https://www.tutorialrepublic.com/codelab.php?topic=html&file=change-bullet-type-in-an-unordered-list)

ul { list-style-type: square; }

Please check out the tutorial on [CSS lists](https://www.tutorialrepublic.com/css-tutorial/css-lists.php) to learn about styling HTML lists in details.

## **HTML Ordered Lists**

An ordered list created using the <ol> element, and each list item starts with the <li> element. Ordered lists are used when the order of the list's items is important.

The list items in an ordered list are marked with numbers. Here's an example:

#### **Example**

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

<ol> <li>Fasten your seatbelt</li> <li>Starts the car's engine</li> <li>Look around and go</li> </ol>

— The output of the above example will look something like this:

1. Fasten your seatbelt
2. Starts the car's engine
3. Look around and go

The numbering of items in an ordered list typically starts with 1. However, if you want to change that you can use the start attribute, as shown in the following example:

#### **Example**

[Try this code »](https://www.tutorialrepublic.com/codelab.php?topic=html&file=change-start-number-in-an-ordered-list)

<ol start="10"> <li>Mix ingredients</li> <li>Bake in oven for an hour</li> <li>Allow to stand for ten minutes</li> </ol>

— The output of the above example will look something like this:

1. Mix ingredients
2. Bake in oven for an hour
3. Allow to stand for ten minutes

Like unordered list, you can also use the CSS [list-style-type](https://www.tutorialrepublic.com/css-reference/css-list-style-type-property.php) property to change the numbering type in an ordered list. The following style rule changes the marker type to roman numbers.

#### **Example**

[Try this code »](https://www.tutorialrepublic.com/codelab.php?topic=html&file=change-numbering-type-in-an-ordered-list)

ol { list-style-type: upper-roman; }

**Tip:** You can also use the type attribute to change the numbering type e.g. type="I". However, you should avoid this attribute, use the CSS list-style-type property instead.

## **HTML Description Lists**

A description list is a list of items with a description or definition of each item.

The description list is created using <dl> element. The <dl> element is used in conjunction with the <dt> element which specify a term, and the <dd> element which specify the term's definition.

Browsers usually render the definition lists by placing the terms and definitions in separate lines, where the term's definitions are slightly indented. Here's an example:

#### **Example**

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

<dl> <dt>Bread</dt> <dd>A baked food made of flour.</dd> <dt>Coffee</dt> <dd>A drink made from roasted coffee beans.</dd> </dl>

— The output of the above example will look something like this:

**Bread**

A baked food made of flour.

**Coffee**

A drink made from roasted coffee beans.