

# Research on the “rel” attribute of the link tag

The <link> tag in HTML is **used to define a link between a document and an external resource or to add the favicon to a website**. The link tag is mainly used to link external style sheets. The link element is empty, it contains attributes only. The below table shows the “rel” attribute of the link tag with value and description

Link Type(Values of rel attribute)	Description
alternate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● If the element is &lt;link&gt; and the “rel” attribute also contains the stylesheet type, the link defines an alternative style sheet, in that case, the title attribute must be present and not be the empty string</li><li>● Otherwise, the link defines an alternative page, of one of these types:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ for another medium, like a handheld device (if the media attribute is set)</li><li>○ in another language (if the href lang attribute is set),</li><li>○ in another format, such as a PDF (if the type attribute is set)</li><li>○ a combination of these</li></ul></li></ul>
archives	Defines a hyperlink to a document that contains an archive link to this one. For example, a blog entry could link to a monthly index page this way.
author	Defines a hyperlink to a page describing the author or provides a way to contact the author.
canonical	A canonical link element is an HTML element that helps webmasters prevent

	duplicate content issues by specifying the "canonical" or "preferred" version of a web page as part of search engine optimization.
dns-prefetch	Hints to the browser that a resource is needed, allowing the browser to do a DNS lookup and protocol handshaking before a user clicks the link.
first	This indicates that the hyperlink leads to the first resource of the <i>sequence</i> the current page is in.
help	it indicates that the hyperlink leads to a resource giving further help about the page as a whole
icon	<p>Defines a resource for representing the page in the user interface, usually an icon (auditory or visual). In the browser, it is usually referred to as the favicon.</p> <p>If there are multiple &lt;link rel="icon"&gt;s, the browser uses their media, type, and sizes attributes to select the most appropriate icon. If several icons are equally appropriate, the last one is used. If the most appropriate icon is later found to be inappropriate, for example, because it uses an unsupported format, the browser proceeds to the next-most appropriate, and so on.</p>
index	<p>This indicates that the page is part of a hierarchical structure and that the hyperlink leads to the top-level resource of that structure.</p> <p>If one or several uplink types are also present, the number of these up indicates the depth of the current page in the hierarchy.</p>
license	This indicates that the hyperlink leads to a

	document describing the licensing information.
manifest	This indicates that the linked file is a Web App Manifest (websites that can be installed to a device's home screen without an app store)
Module preload	Initiates early (and high-priority) loading of module scripts.
pingback	Defines an external resource URI to call if one wishes to make a comment or a citation about the webpage.
preconnect	Provides a hint to the browser suggesting to open a connection to the linked website in advance, without disclosing any private information or downloading any content, so that when the link is followed the linked content can be fetched more quickly.
prefetch	Suggests that the browser fetch the linked resource in advance, as it is likely to be requested by the user.
preload	Tells the browser to download a resource because this resource will be needed later during the current navigation.
prerender	Suggests that the browser fetch the linked resource in advance and that it also renders the prefetched content offscreen so it can be quickly presented to the user once needed.
prev	Indicates that the hyperlink leads to the <i>p</i> preceding resource of the sequence the current page is in
search	Indicates that the hyperlink references a document whose interface is specially designed for searching in this document, or site, and its resources.

shortlink	This helps in URL shortening.
sidebar	Indicates that the hyperlink leads to a resource that would be better suited for a secondary browsing context, like a sidebar. Browsers, that don't have such a context will ignore this keyword.
stylesheet	Defines an external resource to be used as a stylesheet. If the type is not set, the browser should assume it is a text/css stylesheet until further inspection.
up	Indicates that the page is part of a hierarchial structure and that the hyperlink leads to the higher level resource of that structure.