

HTML Tutorial

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HTML Forms

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The <form> Element

HTML forms are used to collect user input.

The **<form>** element defines an HTML form:

Example

```
<form>
.
  form elements
.
</form>
```

HTML forms contain **form elements**.

Form elements are different types of input elements, checkboxes, radio buttons, submit buttons, and more.

The <input> Element

The **<input>** element is the most important **form element**.

The <input> element has many variations, depending on the **type** attribute.

Here are the types used in this chapter:

Type	Description
text	Defines normal text input

HTML (html/default)	Defines radio button input (for selecting one of many choices)
HTML Blocks (html_blocks.asp)	submit Defines a submit button (for submitting the form)
HTML Classes (html_classes.asp)	
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You will learn a lot more about input types later in this tutorial.

Text Input

<input type="text"> defines a one-line input field for **text** input:

Example

```
<form>
First name:<br>
<input type="text" name="firstname">
<br>
Last name:<br>
<input type="text" name="lastname">
</form>
```

Try it Yourself » (tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_form_text)

This is how it will look like in a browser:

First name:

Last name:

Note: The form itself is not visible. Also note that the default width of a text field is 20 characters.

HTML Forms

HTML Forms

(html_forms.asp)

HTML Form Elements

(html_form_elements.asp)

HTML Input Types

(html_form_input_types.asp)

HTML Input Attributes

Radio Button Input

<input type="radio"> defines a **radio button**.

Radio buttons let a user select **ONE** of a limited number of choices:

```

<html_
HTML(/html/default)
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JAVASCRIPT(/js/default.)
SQL(/sql/default.)
PHP(/php/default)
JQUERY(/jquery/default)
BOOTSTRAP(/bootstrap/default)
ANGULAR(/angular/default)
<form>
<input type="radio" name="sex" value="male"
checked>Male
<br>
<input type="radio" name="sex"
value="female">Female
</form>

```

Try it Yourself » (tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_form_radio)

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

☒ Male
☐ Female

HTML Graphics

HTML Canvas
 (html5_canvas.asp)
 HTML SVG
 (html5_svg.asp)

HTML Media

HTML Media
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 (html5_video.asp)
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 HTML Plug-ins
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 HTML YouTube
 (html_youtube.asp)

HTML APIs

HTML Geolocation

The Submit Button

<input type="submit"> defines a button for **submitting** a form to a **form-handler**.

The form-handler is typically a server page with a script for processing input data.

The form-handler is specified in the form's **action** attribute:

Example

```

<form action="action_page.php">
First name:<br>
<input type="text" name="firstname"
value="Mickey">
<br>
Last name:<br>
<input type="text" name="lastname" value="Mouse">
<br><br>
<input type="submit" value="Submit">
</form>

```

Try it Yourself » (tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_form_submit)

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

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First name:

Last name:

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The Action Attribute

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The **action attribute** defines the action to be performed when the form is submitted.

The common way to submit a form to a server, is by using a submit button.

Normally, the form is submitted to a web page on a web server.

In the example above, a server-side script is specified to handle the submitted form:

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

If the action attribute is omitted, the action is set to the current page.

HTML References

[HTML Tag List \(/tags/default.asp\)](#)
[HTML Attributes \(/tags/ref_standardattributes.asp\)](#)
[HTML Events \(/tags/ref_eventattributes.asp\)](#)
[HTML Canvas \(/tags/ref_canvas.asp\)](#)
[HTML Audio/Video \(/tags/ref_av_dom.asp\)](#)

The Method Attribute

The **method attribute** specifies the HTTP method (**GET** or **POST**) to be used when submitting the forms:

```
<form action="action_page.php" method="GET">
```

or:

```
<form action="action_page.php" method="POST">
```

When to Use GET?

You can use GET (the default method):

If the form submission is passive (like a search engine query), and without sensitive information.

When you use GET, the form data will be visible in the page address:

```
action_page.php?firstname=Mickey&lastname=Mouse
```



GET is best suited to short amounts of data. Size limitations are set in your browser.

When to Use POST?

You should use POST:

If the form is updating data, or includes sensitive information (password).

POST offers better security because the submitted data is not visible in the page address.

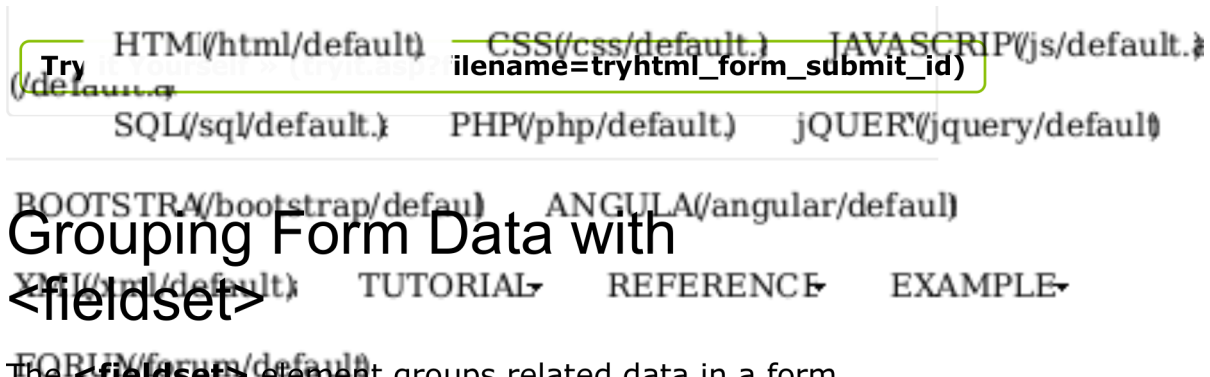
The Name Attribute

To be submitted correctly, each input field must have a name attribute.

This example will only submit the "Last name" input field:

Example

```
<form action="action_page.php">
First name:<br>
<input type="text" value="Mickey">
<br>
Last name:<br>
<input type="text" name="lastname" value="Mouse">
<br><br>
<input type="submit" value="Submit">
</form>
```



Grouping Form Data with <fieldset>

The **<fieldset>** element groups related data in a form.

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

Example

```
<form action="action_page.php">
<fieldset>
<legend>Personal information:</legend>
First name:<br>
<input type="text" name="firstname"
value="Mickey">
<br>
Last name:<br>
<input type="text" name="lastname" value="Mouse">
<br><br>
<input type="submit" value="Submit"></fieldset>
</form>
```

Try it Yourself » (tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_form_legend)

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

Personal information:

First name:

Last name:

HTML `<form>` element

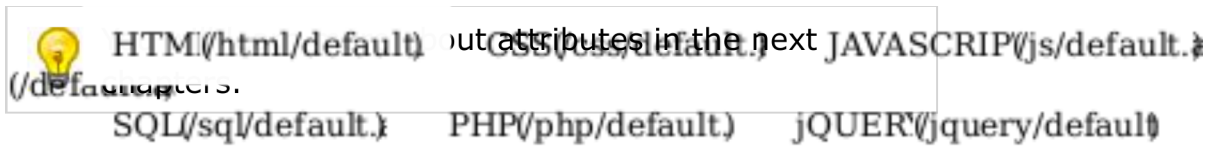
An HTML `<form>` element, with all possible attributes set, will look like this:

Example

```
<form action="action_page.php" method="GET"
target="blank" accept-charset="UTF-8"
enctype="application/x-www-form-urlencoded"
autocomplete="off" novalidate>
.
  form elements
.
</form>
```

Here is the list of `<form>` attributes:

Attribute	Description
accept-charset	Specifies the charset used in the submitted form (default: the page charset).
action	Specifies an address (url) where to submit the form (default: the submitting page).
autocomplete	Specifies if the browser should autocomplete the form (default: on).
enctype	Specifies the encoding of the submitted data (default: is url-encoded).
method	Specifies the HTTP method used when submitting the form (default: GET).
name	Specifies a name used to identify the form (for DOM usage: document.forms.name).
novalidate	Specifies that the browser should not validate the form.
target	Specifies the target of the address in the action attribute (default: _self).



BOOTSTRAP/bootstrap/default) ANGULA/angular/default)

More Examples

XMI/xml/default) TUTORIAL➤ REFERENCE➤ EXAMPLE➤

[Send e-mail from a form](#)

[\(tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_form_mail\)](#)

How to send e-mail from a form.

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