Tables

# table tags

There are a number of tags associated with Tables.

table: defines the table as a block

thead: defines the header section of a table. This is where the column headers are defined.

tfoot: defines the footer of each column of the table. It must appear after the thead, and before the tbody, but will always appear as the last row.

tbody: where the data content of the table is defined

tr: this is used to create a new row in the table. Each header row, footer row, and data row needs a tr element.

td: this defines the data cell. There should be a td element for each column, on each row.

th: you should use th tags to define header and footer elements, in preference to td. This semantic markup enables readers to assist the visually impaired.

# CSS

The most common CSS used with a table is to turn on the borders. This requires borders for the table, th and td elements, with the borders collapsed.

table, td, th {

    border: 1px black solid;

    border-collapse: collapse;

}

# Columns

In preference to using the tr/th in the thead section, you can replace the tr tag with a colgroup tag, and the th with a col. The advantage of this is that the browser will assign td and th elements to a col within the colgoup, according to the number of cols defined. Col elements can have a span (note: not colspan!!) attribute, so that it “consumes” more than one td element per row.

By assigning a class or style to a col, the associated td elements will inherit that styling. This is easier than assigning classes to each td element on each row.

# Colspan

Use the colspan attribute to enable a th/td element to “consume” more than one column, on a given row. This can be used for grouping or summary information, or subtotals, for example. It is often used to group column headers together.

# Rowspan

The rowspan is a little more difficult to construct. Again, it used to consume more than 1 row for a left hand “header” element. The important thing is the first cell in the row “consumes” or spans more than 1 row. The first row of the group is completed by inserting th/td elements. However, you must insert tr elements for the second and subsequent rows until you match the rowspan setting of the row’s first element.

You can nest elements with rowspan attributes. The outer rowspan (left-most) must specify the **total number of rows** being consumed. The inner nested rowspan attributes should add up to the total outer value.

            <tr colspan="2">

                <th rowspan="2">Group</th>

                    <!-- this continues the first tr -->

                    <th>Subgroup 1</th>

                    <!-- use up the rest of the space -->

                    <td colspan="3">single field (3 cols) for the subgroup</td>

                    <td>Might put a button here</td>

                    <!-- this creates the 2nd row - for the rowspan="2" -->

                    <tr>

                        <th>Subgroup 2</th>

                        <td colspan="3">Another single field (3 cols)</td>

                        <td>Another button?</td>

                    </tr>

            </tr>