Labeling controls

LABELS NEED TO DESCRIBE THE PURPOSE OF THE FORM CONTROL

Form fields and other form controls usually have visible labels, such as "E-mail Address:" as the label for a text field (see figure below).
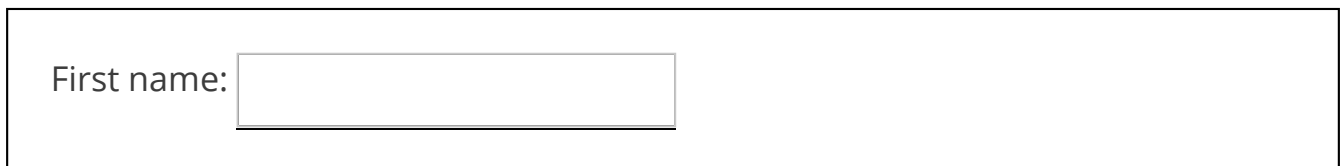
E-mail address: [   ]

When these labels are marked up correctly, people can interact with them using only the keyboard, using voice input, and using screen readers. Also, the label itself becomes clickable, which enables a person who has difficulty clicking on small radio buttons or checkboxes to click anywhere on the label text.

ASSOCIATING LABELS EXPLICITLY

Whenever possible, use the `label` element to explicitly associate text with form elements. The `for` attribute of the label must exactly match the `id` of the form control.

Example 1 (click on the label, not on the input field to see the effect)

First name: [   ]

Source code:

```
<label for="first_name">Your First Name</label>
<input id="first_name" type="text"name="fname"/>
```

Alternative example 1

Note that you can also include the `<input>` element inside the `<label>`...

`</label>` element, and also add a <span lang="en"> for example, to indicate the language used in the label. Sometimes, nesting labels and inputs can also make CSS styling easier and produce better results with screen readers.

Source code (with `<input>` inside the `<label>`):

```
<label for="first_name"><span lang:en">Your First Name</span>
<input id="first_name" type="text"name="fname"/>
</label>
```

Example 2 (click on the label "Subscribe to newsletter" to see the effect)

First name:

Subscribe to newsletter ☐

Source code:

```
<label for="firstname">First name:</label>
<input type="text" name="firstname"id="firstname"><br>

<input type="checkbox" name="subscribe"id="subscribe">
<label for="subscribe">Subscribe to newsletter</label>
```

LABELING BUTTONS

The label of a `<button>` element is set inside the element and can include markup. This allows advanced accessibility hints to be included, such as marking up language change.

Example: `<button>Mon <span lang="fr">bouton</span></button>`, for a button with a label in French.

When using the `<input>` element to create buttons, the label is set in the `value` attribute of the element.

Example: `<input type="submit" value="Please submit">,` that will be rendered as a button.

Source code for an example of "Submit" and "Cancel" buttons:

```html
<button type="submit">Submit</button>
<button type="button">Cancel</button>

<input type="submit" value="Submit">
<input type="button" value="Cancel">
```

These will produce the same results:

Lines 1 and 2 render as:

Submit   Cancel

While lines 3 and 4 render as:

Submit   Cancel

LABELING TEXT AREAS

Enter your address:

Source code:

```html
<label for="address">Enter your address:</label>
<br> <textarea id="address"name="addresstext"></textarea>
```