

# Grouping controls

Groupings of form controls, typically groups of related checkboxes and radio buttons, sometimes require a higher level description. Grouping related form controls makes forms more understandable for all users, as related controls are easier to identify.

## ASSOCIATING RELATED CONTROLS WITH `FIELDSET`

Grouping needs to be carried out visually and in the code, for example, by using the `<fieldset>` and `<legend>` elements to associate related form controls.

The `<fieldset>` identifies the entire grouping and `<legend>` identifies the grouping's descriptive text.

### Example 1 - Radio buttons

In the example below, there are three radio buttons that allow the user to choose an output format. Radio button groups should always be grouped using `<fieldset>`.

Output format

- ☐ Text file
- ☐ CSV file
- ☐ HTML file

Source code:

```
10. <fieldset>
    <legend>Output format</legend>
    <div>
        <input type="radio" name="format" id="txt" value="txt" checked>
        <label for="txt">Text file</label>
    </div>
    <div>
        <input type="radio" name="format" id="csv" value="csv">
        <label for="csv">CSV file</label>
    </div>
    [...]
</fieldset>
```

## Example 2 - Checkboxes

In the example below, there are three checkboxes that are all part of an opt-in function for receiving different types of information.

I want to receive

- ☐ The weekly newsletter
- ☐ Offers from the company
- ☐ Offers from associated companies

Source code:

```
<fieldset>
<legend>I want to receive</legend>
<div>
    <input type="checkbox" name="newsletter" id="check_1">
    <label for="check_1">The weekly newsletter</label>
</div>
[...]
```

## ASSOCIATING RELATED CONTROLS WITH WAI-ARIA

WAI-ARIA provides a grouping role that functions similarly to `fieldset` and `legend`. For example, a `div` element can have `role=group` to indicate that the contained elements are members of a group.

WAI-ARIA roles are very important in the accessibility world, and we invite you to see an example provided in the [associated WAI tutorial](#). This article by Oscar Cao gives an [Introduction to understanding WAI-ARIA 1.0 roles](#).