

# Attributes of the `<video>` and `<audio>` elements

Here are the attributes you can use with the `<video>` element. Most of them are self explanatory...

We give them as a reference in the following table:

Attributes of the `<video>` element

Name	Description
src	Source of the video.
width and height	Size of the video.  If unspecified, the default width and height of the video will be used. If you specify one dimension but not the other, the browser will adjust the size of the unspecified dimension to preserve the aspect ratio of the video.
controls	If this boolean attribute is present, the browser displays its own controls for video playback and volume.
poster	This attribute allows you to specify an image that the browser will use while video is being downloaded, or until the user starts playing the video.  If this attribute is not specified, the first frame of the video will be used instead.
autoplay	This attribute asks the browser to start playing the video automatically as soon as the page is ready.

## preload

The `preload` attribute is used when `autoplay` is not used. It tells the browser what to do before a user plays a video. This attribute is a hint - the browser may ignore it. While `autoplay` and `preload` are mutually exclusive, if both are present, then `preload` is ignored.

Possible values:

- `none`: do nothing. This saves bandwidth, no video will be downloaded in background before a user or a call to the `play()` method starts playing the video.
- `metadata`: download metadata, such as length of the video or its format.
- `auto` (default value): the browser will decide. This will depend on the implementation, and on the kind of connection: wifi, 3G, data roaming etc.

## loop

Another boolean attribute that indicates to play the video in loop mode (and it starts again when finished).

## Be careful if you target mobile applications or if you have multiple videos on the same page

The `autoplay` attribute is not recommended if your Web site targets mobile applications, as it may consume bandwidth even if the user is not interested in watching the proposed video. If you target mobile devices, we recommend using `preload=none` as well, as the default value for this attribute is `auto`.

**Best practice:** do not use `autoplay` and `addpreload="none"` if you target mobile devices or if you have multiple audio/video on the same page. For example, [this page](#) contains many audio elements and it does not make sense to have them preload or autoplay.

## About the `poster` attribute

If the `poster` attribute is missing, usually the first non-blank frame of the video will be used as the image that is shown when the video is not playing.

while this is the expected behavior, Internet Explorer doesn't actually do this, it displays the first frame of the video as soon as it can regardless of the poster value ([see Ian Devlin's article about this](#)).

## ATTRIBUTES OF THE `<AUDIO>` ELEMENT

The attributes you can use with the `<audio>` element are a subset of those available for the `<video>` element. Except for the `poster` attribute, they are all recognized and have the expected meanings:

- `src`: source of an audio stream.
- `controls`: if this attribute is present, the browser displays its own controls for audio playback and volume.
- `autoplay`: tells the browser to start playing the audio stream automatically as soon as the page is ready - please read details in the above table.
- `preload`: tells the browser what to do before a user plays a video - please read details in the above table.
- `loop`: indicates to play the audio stream in loop mode (start again when finished).

As with the `<video>` element, the same best practice in regard to `preload` and `autoplay` attributes should be followed.

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## KNOWLEDGE CHECK 2.2.3 (NOT GRADED)

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Which of the following statements about the `preload` attribute is correct?

- ☐ If this attribute is present in an audio or video element, the multimedia content is preloaded as soon as the page is loaded.
- ☐ If this attribute is present, the browser checks if the multimedia content can be loaded from its cache.
- ☐ This attribute can take different values that will avoid preloading multimedia content, or on the

contrary, that will tell the browser to preload this content, or tell the browser to preload only some multimedia content metadata.

- When present, it tells the browser to load multiple multimedia files in advance.

**CHECK**

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