HTML <meta> Tag

HTML <meta> tag is used to represent the metadata about the HTML document. It specifies page description, keywords, copyright, language, author of the documents, etc.

The metadata does not display on the webpage, but it is used by search engines, browsers and other web services which scan the site or webpage to know about the webpage.

With the help of meta tag, you can experiment and preview that how your webpage will render on the browser.

The <meta> tag is placed within the <head> tag, and it can be used more than one times in a document.

Syntax:

1. **<meta** charset="utf-8"**>**

Following are some specifications about the HTML <meta> tag

Display	None
Start tag/End tag	Empty Tag(Only Start tag)
Usage	Document Structural

Following are some specific syntaxes of meta tag which shows the different uses of meta Tag.

1. **<meta** charset="utf-8"**>**

It defines the character encoding. The value of charset is "utf-8" which means it will support to display any language.

2. **<meta** name="keywords" content="HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Tutorials"**>**

It specifies the list of keyword which is used by search engines.

3. **<meta** name="description" content="Free Online tutorials">

It defines the website description which is useful to provide relevant search performed by search engines.

4. **<meta** name="author" content="thisauthor">

It specifies the author of the page. It is useful to extract author information by Content management system automatically.

5. **<meta** name="refresh" content="50">

It specifies to provide instruction to the browser to automatically refresh the content after every 50sec (or any given time).

6. **<meta** http-equiv="refresh" content="5; url=https://www.javatpoint.com/html-tags-list">

In the above example we have set a URL with content so it will automatically redirect to the given page after the provided time.

7. **<meta** name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">

It specifies the viewport to control the page dimension and scaling so that our website looks good on all devices. If this tag is present, it indicates that this page is mobile device supported.

Attribute	Value	Description
charset 5	character_set	It specifies the character encoding of an HTML page.
content	text	It contains the value of the attribute "name" and "http-equiv" in HTML document, depending on context.

http-equiv	o Content-type o default-style o refresh	It specifies the Information given by the web server about how the web page should be served.
name	o application-name o author o description o generator o keywords	It specifies the name of document-level metadata.

Setting the Viewport

The viewport is the user's visible area of a web page. It varies with the device it will be smaller on a mobile phone than on a computer screen.

You should include the following <meta> element in all your web pages:

<meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">

This gives the browser instructions on how to control the page's dimensions and scaling.

The width=device-width part sets the width of the page to follow the screen-width of the device (which will vary depending on the device).

The initial-scale=1.0 part sets the initial zoom level when the page is first loaded by the browser.

Here is an example of a web page *without* the viewport meta tag, and the same web page *with* the viewport meta tag:

Without the viewport meta tag

With the viewport meta tag