Practice: Create a simple HTML5 form

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Forms are a key component in every facet of the web. Designed to gather data, forms are essential to the acquisition of information. This exercise will help strengthen your understanding of the fundamentals of HTML5 forms.

In this exercise, you create a simple form using several of the new `<input>` tag attributes and types. You create the nuts and bolts of the form, not the bells and whistles. The objective is to build a skeleton on which rich Internet applications (RIAs) can be developed, while ensuring an understanding of the structural and semantic underpinnings of sound HTML5 form construction.

Frequently used acronyms

- **CSS3:** Cascading Style Sheet version 3
- **GUI:** Graphical user interface
- **HTML5:** Hypertext Markup Language version 5
- **IT:** Information technology

To perform the tasks required to create the form in this exercise, you should:

- Be familiar with HTML and forms in general
- Understand the semantic fundamentals of HTML5
- Know about the new input types and attributes

Exercise

Your task is to design the form elements used to create the form shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1. A simple form web page

In addition to looking like the form shown in Figure 1, your form must include the constructs listed in the following instructions. When creating the code for your form, you must use the HTML5 tags that are appropriate to replicate the form and fulfill all the specifications listed.

1. Code the form with `autocomplete` active.
2. Given the image shown in Figure 1, it is easy to see that two field sets are used to create the main structure of the form. Your task is to create the field sets, including the names *Customer Info* and *Books.* Don't worry about the content fields for the moment.
3. The **Name** field you create should have `autofocus`, placeholder text, and be required. Don't forget to select the appropriate type for this field as well as all the fields that follow.
4. The **Telephone** field should have placeholder text, a pattern to restrict entry, and be required.
5. The **Email address** field should have placeholder text and allow multiple entries. This field should also be required.
6. The **Books** field should have a data list. You can select the content you would like to list.
7. The **Quantity (Maximum 5)** field should have a minimum value of `1` and a maximum value of `5`.

Exercise solutions

Follow these solution steps to check your work.

Related topics

- "HTML5 fundamentals, Part 2: Organizing Inputs" (developerWorks, May 2011) provides an overview of the new types and attributes in HTML5.
- "Create modern Web sites using HTML5 and CSS3" (developerWorks, March 2010) is a multi-component HTML5 and CSS3 tutorial.
- In "New elements in HTML 5" (developerWorks, August 2007), you will find information for several of the new elements in HTML5.
- The <html>5doctor website provides an excellent view of the current trends in HTML5 today.
- The W3Schools.com: HTML5 Tag Reference provides an extensive list of HTML5 tags, definitions, and examples.
- The WHATWG website provides detailed information for the HTML5 specification.