

## Writing a procedure <steps> and <steps-unordered>

Steps can be either ordered or un-ordered. This section describes how to write procedures using these types of steps.

In DITA, you can describe two types of tasks in a task topic:

- **Procedures with ordered steps** - To set up ordered steps use the <steps> element, which is the outermost container for your steps. You should use this element for most of your tasks. See the task below which describes the use of an ordered list.

```
<task id="task1">
  <title>Creating database tables</title>
  <shortdesc>
    This task is important as you cannot store or retrieve information
    unless the database tables are created first.
    To create the database tables, complete the following steps.
  </shortdesc>

  <taskbody>
    <prereq>
      To create the database tables, you must have SYSASMIN authority
      or CREATE
      privilege on the table.
    </prereq>

    <context>
      <p>This task needs to be performed at system installation
      time.</p>
    </context>

    <steps>
      <step importance="optional">
        <cmd>Go to the following location.</cmd>
      </step>
      <step>
        <cmd>Download some package.</cmd>
      </step>
      <step>
        <cmd>Unpackage it.</cmd>
      </step>
    </steps>

  </taskbody>
</task>
```

The following is displayed to the end user.

- **Procedures with unordered steps** -To set up unordered steps use the

```
<steps-unordered>
```

element. The default output shows a bulleted list instead of numbered steps. See the example below which describes the use of an un-ordered list.

```
<steps-unordered>
  <step>
    <cmd>Go to the following location.</cmd>
  </step>
  <step>
    <cmd>Download some package.</cmd>
```

```
    </step>  
    <step>  
      <cmd>Unpackage it.</cmd>  
    </step>  
</steps-unordered>
```

Whether you create ordered or unordered tasks, you write each step in the `<step>` and `<cmd>` elements. The following is displayed to the user: