

TABLES

INFocus

Tables are used in HTML to display tabular data. Tables consist of rows and columns, and each intersection between a row and column is known as a cell.

In this session you will:

- ✓ learn how to create a simple table
- ✓ learn how to align text in cells in a table
- ✓ learn how to make table cells span more than one row or column.

CREATING A SIMPLE TABLE

Tables can be created in HTML to hold many sorts of data in rows and columns. In its simplest form, a table consists of one row and one column – in other words a single cell. Tables are created

in HTML using the **<table>** tag, a **<tr>** tag for each table row, and a **<td>** tag for each table data cell. A table data cell always occurs within a table row.

Try This Yourself:

Same
File

Before starting this exercise you **MUST** open the file *Tables_1.html*...

1 In your text editor, place your cursor after the heading **Our Opening Hours** and add the table code as shown

2 Save the changes to the file

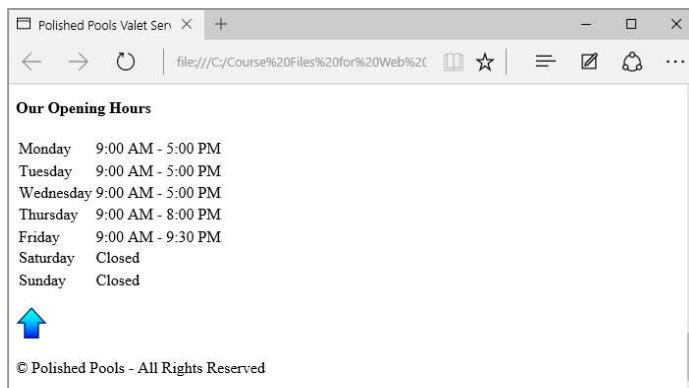
3 Open the file in your web browser to display the newly added table

The text will appear in a plain table

1

```
<h4>Our Opening Hours</h4>
<table>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>9:00 AM - 5:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>9:00 AM - 5:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>9:00 AM - 5:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>9:00 AM - 8:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>9:00 AM - 9:30 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Closed</td>
</tr>
</table>
```

3



For Your Reference...

To **create a simple table**:

- Add the opening table tag **<table>**
- Add a row tag **<tr>** for each row
- Add a table data tag **<td>** for each table data cell in the row
- Add the closing table tag **</table>**

Handy to Know...

- In previous versions of HTML you could change the appearance of the table using attributes like **border**, **cellspacing** and **cellpadding**. These attributes are now deprecated and you must use CSS if you would like to change the appearance of the table.

ADDING TABLE HEADERS

Table header tags **<th>** appear between row tags. The main difference between table headers and table data marked using **<td>** is that table headers contain heading information and may be

formatted differently to the table data. In most browsers, text in table headers is centred and bold by default.

Try This Yourself:

Same File

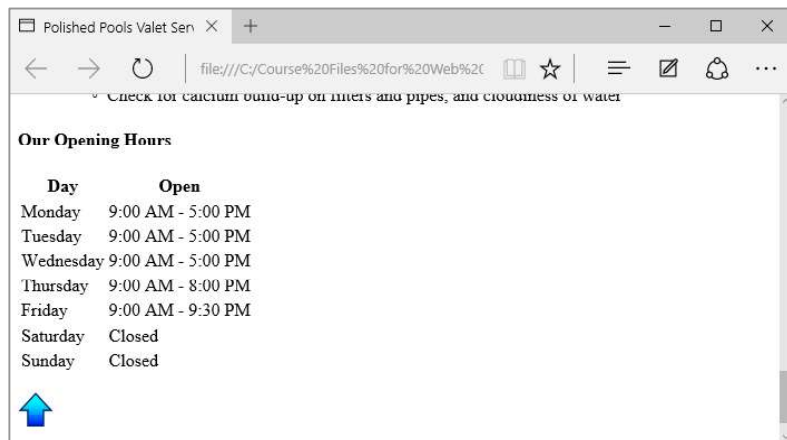
Continue using the previous file with this exercise, or open the file `Tables_2.html` in the text editor and browser...

- 1 In your text editor, scroll down to the opening hours table and add a new row to the table containing headers, as shown.
- 2 Save the changes to the file
- 3 Switch to your web browser, then click on **Refresh** to redisplay the table

The opening hours table should now have bold, centred headers

```
<h4>Our Opening Hours</h4>
<table>
  <tr>
    <th>Day</th>
    <th>Open</th>
  </tr>
  <tr>
    <td>Monday</td>
    <td>9:00 AM - 5:00 PM</td>
  </tr>
  <tr>
    <td>Tuesday</td>
    <td>9:00 AM - 5:00 PM</td>
  </tr>
  <tr>
    <td>Wednesday</td>
    <td>9:00 AM - 5:00 PM</td>
  </tr>
  <tr>
    <td>Thursday</td>
    <td>9:00 AM - 8:00 PM</td>
  </tr>
```

1



3

For Your Reference...

To **add table headers**:

- Add the opening tag **<th>** in a table row
- Add the header text
- Add the closing tag **</th>**

Handy to Know...

- The width of this table automatically adjusts to fit the data within it unless you adjust it using CSS. Width can be set to a percentage of the window width, such as 75%, or to a specific number of pixels.

ROW AND COLUMN SPANS

By using the **rowspan** and **colspan** attributes on table headers and data cells, you can force the content of those cells to span more than one row or column. This might be useful in a number of

circumstances, such as when the value of a row is repeated in the rows below it.

Try This Yourself:

Same File

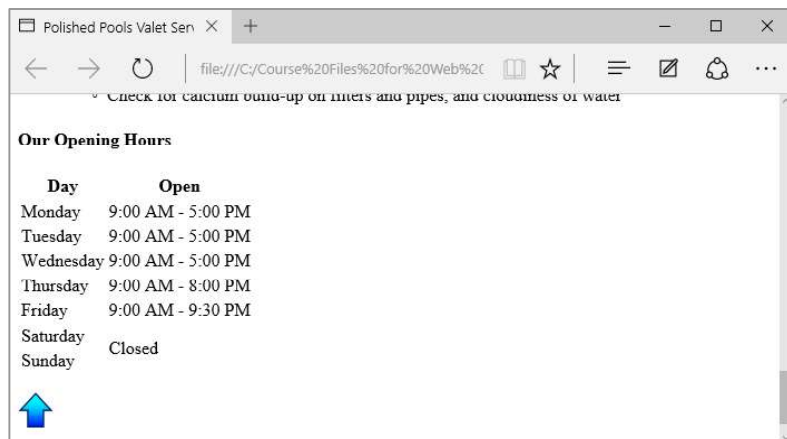
Continue using the previous file with this exercise, or open the file `Tables_3.html` in the text editor and browser...

- 1 In your text editor, scroll down to the opening hours table and modify the last two rows, as shown
- 2 Save the changes to the file
- 3 Switch to your web browser, then click on **Refresh** to redisplay the table

The opening hours table should now have the Saturday and Sunday opening hours cells merged into one cell

```
<tr>
  <td>Wednesday</td>
  <td>9:00 AM - 5:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
  <td>Thursday</td>
  <td>9:00 AM - 8:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
  <td>Friday</td>
  <td>9:00 AM - 9:30 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
  <td>Saturday</td>
  <td rowspan="2">Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
  <td>Sunday</td>
</tr>
</table>
```

1



3

For Your Reference...

To make a table cell **span a row**:

- Add the **rowspan** attribute to the table cell with the number of rows it should span

To make a table cell **span a column**:

- Add the **colspan** attribute to the table cell with the number of columns it should span

Handy to Know...

- You can make very complicated table layouts with row and column spans. However, you shouldn't be tempted to use tables to layout your page! Tables should only be used to present tabular data to the user.