### helpText (Associated Help Text)

This element specifies optional help text which shall be associated with the parent form field. The method or user interface by which this help text may be surfaced is not defined by this Office Open [XML](XML.docx) Standard.

If this element is omitted, then no help text shall be associated with the current form field.

[Example: Consider the following WordprocessingML fragment for a drop-down list form field:

<w:[fldSimple](fldSimple.docx) w:instr="[FORMDROPDOWN](FORMDROPDOWN.docx)">  
 <w:[ffData](ffData.docx)>  
 <w:helpText w:[type](type.docx)="text" w:val="Example help text." />  
 <w:[ddList](ddList.docx)>  
 …  
 </w:[ddList](ddList.docx)>  
 </w:[ffData](ffData.docx)>  
</w:[fldSimple](fldSimple.docx)>

The helpText element specifies the help text for the parent form field - in this case, literal help text consisting of the string Example help text. end example]

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| --- |
| Parent Elements |
| [ffData](ffData.docx) (§) |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Attributes | Description |
| [type](type.docx) (Help Text Type) | Specifies the [type](type.docx) of help text which is specified by this element, defined by the simple [type](type.docx) below.  If this attribute is omitted, then its value shall be assumed to be text.  [Example: Consider the following WordprocessingML fragment for a form field:  <w:[ffData](ffData.docx)>  <w:helpText w:[type](type.docx)="text" w:val="Example help text." /> </w:[ffData](ffData.docx)>  The [type](type.docx) attribute has a value of text, which specifies that the text in the val attribute is the literal help text for this form field. end example]  The possible values for this attribute are defined by the [ST\_InfoTextType](ST_InfoTextType.docx) simple [type](type.docx) (§). |
| val (Help Text Value) | Specifies the help text for the current form field. Based on the value of the [type](type.docx) attribute, the contents of this field shall be interpreted as follows:   * When the [type](type.docx) attribute value is text, contains the literal help text for the form field. * When the [type](type.docx) attribute value is autoText, contains the name of a glossary document entry which contains the help text for the form field.   [Example: Consider the following WordprocessingML fragment for a form field:  <w:[ffData](ffData.docx)>  <w:helpText w:[type](type.docx)="autoText" w:val="HelpText" /> </w:[ffData](ffData.docx)>  The text in the val attribute is the name of a glossary document entry containing the help text for this form field, since the [type](type.docx) attribute has a value of autoText. end example]  The possible values for this attribute are defined by the [ST\_FFHelpTextVal](ST_FFHelpTextVal.docx) simple [type](type.docx) (§). |

The following [XML](XML.docx) Schema fragment defines the contents of this element:

<complexType [name](name.docx)="CT\_FFHelpText">

<attribute [name](name.docx)="[type](type.docx)" [type](type.docx)="[ST\_InfoTextType](ST_InfoTextType.docx)"/>

<attribute [name](name.docx)="val" [type](type.docx)="[ST\_FFHelpTextVal](ST_FFHelpTextVal.docx)"/>

</complexType>