

Iterative approach to merging cells

Use an HTML editor to code the table below. Save your file as **merge_cells**.

1. Create the 4 by 3 table (r by c, rows by columns) pictured below:

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9
10	11	12

2. Insert `colspan="2"` into the first cell, that is into the first `<td>` tag, where "1" is. Result:

1		2	3
4	5	6	
7	8	9	
10	11	12	

3. In the table above, notice the 1st row has a cell protruding to the right. "Fix" the table to make it rectangular again. Delete this cell with the "3" in it. Delete `<td>3</td>`. Result:

1		2
4	5	6
7	8	9
10	11	12

4. Insert `rowspan="3"` into the first cell of the 2nd row, that is, into its `<td>` tag, where the "4" is. Result:

1		2	
4	5	6	
	7	8	9
	10	11	12

5. In the table above, notice the 3rd and 4th rows each have a cell protruding to the right. "Fix" the table to make it rectangular again. Delete these cells with the "9" and the "12". Delete `<td>9</td>` and `<td>12</td>`. Result:

1		2
4	5	6
	7	8
	10	11

6. Save.

My formulas:

original number of columns = value of colspan for merged cells + any other remaining columns

original number of rows = value of rowspan for merged cells + any other remaining rows