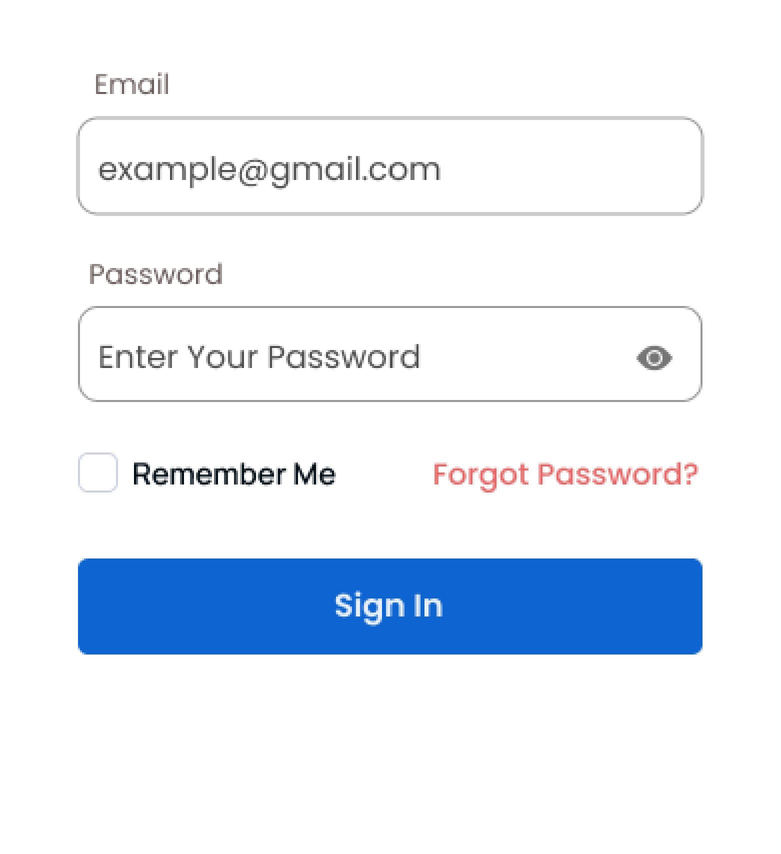
HTML Form

An HTML Form is a section of the document that collects input from the user. The input from the user is generally sent to a server (Web servers, Mail clients, etc). We use the HTML `<form>` element to create forms in HTML.

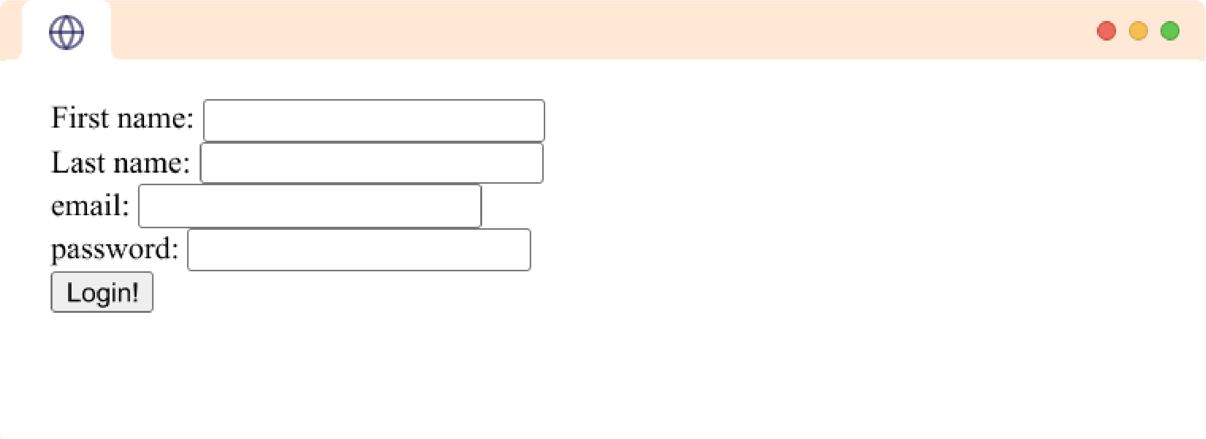


Example: HTML Form

The HTML `<form>` element is used to create HTML forms. For example,

```
<form>
    <label for="firstname">First name: </label>
    <input type="text" name="firstname"  required>
    <br>
    <label for="lastname">Last name: </label>
    <input type="text" name="lastname"  required>
    <br>
    <label for="email">email: </label>
    <input type="email" name="email"  required>
    <br>
    <label for="password">password: </label>
    <input type="password" name="password"  required>
    <br>
    <input type="submit" value="Login!">
</form>
```

Browser Output

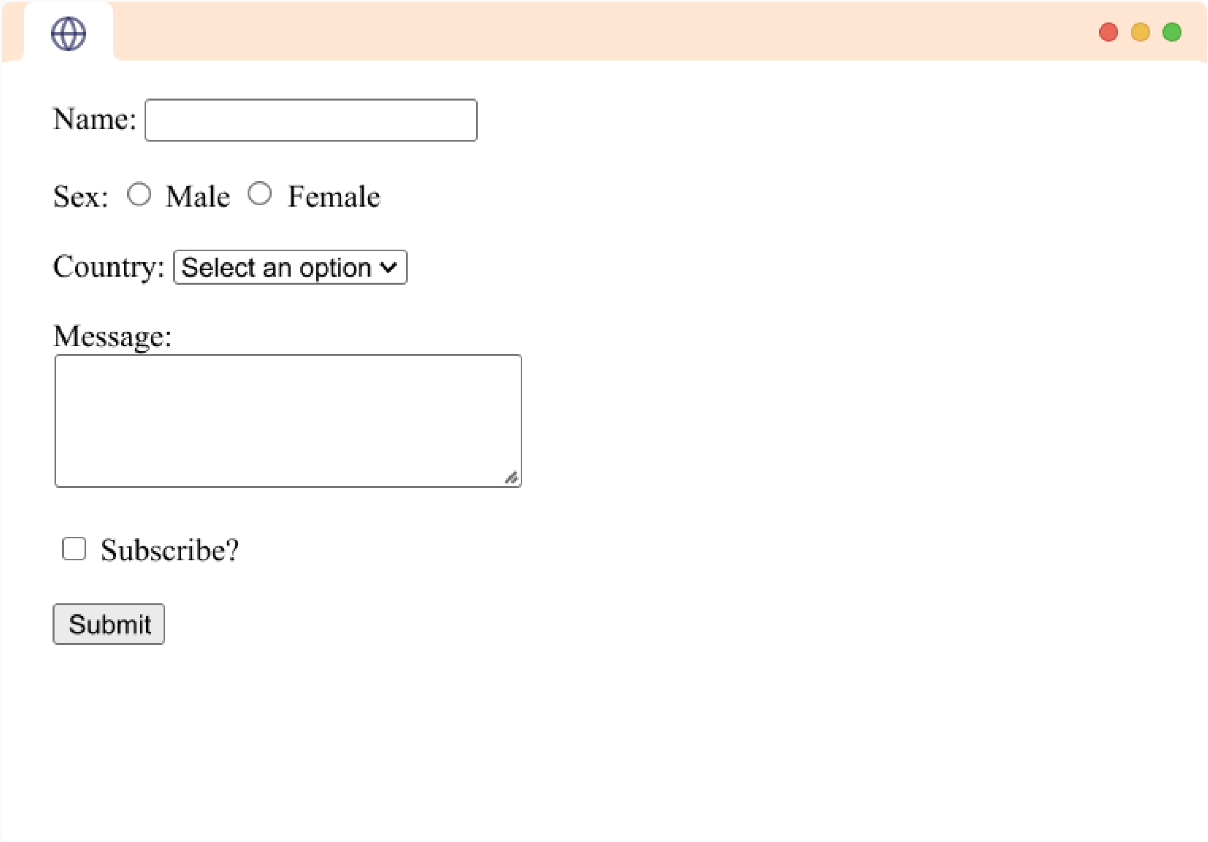


HTML Form Elements

A form contains special interactive elements that users use to send the input. They are text inputs, textarea fields, checkboxes, dropdowns, and much more. For example,

```
<form>
    <label for="name">Name:</label>
    <input type="text" name="name"><br><br>
    <label for="sex">Sex:</label>
    <input type="radio" name="sex" id="male" value="male">

    <label for="male">Male</label>

    <input type="radio" name="sex" id="female" value="female">

    <label for="female">Female</label> <br><br>

    <label for="country">Country: </label>

    <select name="country" id="country">

        <option>Select an option</option>

        <option value="nepal">Nepal</option>

        <option value="usa">USA</option>

        <option value="australia">Australia</option>

    </select><br><br>

    <label for="message">Message:</label><br>

    <textarea name="message" id="message" cols="30" rows="4"></textarea><br><br>

    <input type="checkbox" name="newsletter" id="newsletter">

    <label for="newsletter">Subscribe?</label><br><br>

    <input type="submit" value="Submit">

</form>
```

Browser Output



To learn more about the various form controls, visit *HTML Form Inputs.*

Form Attributes

The HTML `<form>` element contains several attributes for controlling data submission. They are as follows:

action

The `action` attributes define the action to be performed when the form is submitted. It is usually the url for the server where the form data is to be sent.

```
<form action="/login">
    <label for="email">Email:</label>
    <input type="email" name="email"><br><br>
    <label for="password">Password:</label>
    <input type="password" name="password"><br><br>
    <input type="submit" value="Submit">
</form>
```

In the above example, when the form is submitted, the data from the form is sent to `/login`.

method

The `method` attribute defines the HTTP method to be used when the form is submitted. There are 3 possible values for the `method` attribute:

post - It is used to send data to a server to update a resource.

```
<form method = "post">
...
```

- `</form>`

get: It is used to request data from a specified resource.

```
<form method = "get">
...
```

- `</form>`
- dialog: This method is used when the form is inside a `<dialog>` element. Using this method closes the dialog and sends a form-submit event.

To learn more about HTTP methods GET and POST, visit *HTML Form Action: POST and GET*.

target

It specifies where to display the response received after the form is submitted. Similar to the `target` attribute in `<a>` tags, the `target` attribute has four possible values.

_self (default): Load the response into the same browser tab.

```
<form target="_self">

    <label for="firstname">Enter your first name:</label>

    <input type="text" name="firstname">
```

- `</form>`

_blank: Load the response into a new browser tab.

```
<form target="_blank">

    <label for="firstname">Enter your first name:</label>

    <input type="text" name="firstname">
```

- `</form>`

_parent: Load into the parent frame of the current one. If no parent is available,it loads the response into the same tab.

```
<form target="_parent">

    <label for="firstname">Enter your first name:</label>

    <input type="text" name="firstname">
```

- `</form>`

_top: Load the response into the top-level frame. If no parent is available, it loads the response into the same tab.

```
<form target="_top">

    <label for="firstname">Enter your first name:</label>

    <input type="text" name="firstname">
```

- `</form>`

enctype

It specifies how the form data should be encoded for the request. It is only applicable if we use the POST method.

```
<form method="post" enctype="application/x-www-form-urlencoded">
</form>
```

In the above example, data from the form will be encoded in the x-www-form-urlencoded format (which is the default encoding format).

name

It specifies the name of the form. The `name` is used in Javascript to reference or access this form.

```
<form name="login_form">
    <label for="email">Email:</label>
    <input type="email" name="email"><br><br>
    <label for="password">Password:</label>
    <input type="password" name="password"><br><br>
    <input type="submit" value="Submit">
</form>
```

The above form can be accessed in javascript as:

```
document.forms['login_form']
```

Although it is possible to use name to access form elements in javascript, it is recommended to use `id` to access the form elements.

novalidate

If the `novalidate` attribute is set, all validations in the form elements are skipped.

```
<form novalidate>
```

```
    <label for="email">Enter your email:</label>
    <input type="email" id="email" name="email"><br><br>
    <input type="submit">
</form>
```

In the above example, the form will be submitted even if we enter some invalid value to the `email` field, such as `Hi`.