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HTML Form Elements

This chapter describes all HTML form elements.

The <input> Element

The most important form element is the `<input>` element.

The `<input>` element can be displayed in several ways, depending on the `type` attribute.

Example

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

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If the `type` attribute is omitted, the input field gets the default type: "text".

All the different input types are covered in the next chapter.

The `<select>` element defines a **drop-down list**:

Example

```
<select name="cars">
  <option value="volvo">Volvo</option>
  <option value="saab">Saab</option>
  <option value="fiat">Fiat</option>
  <option value="audi">Audi</option>
</select>
```

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The `<option>` elements defines an option that can be selected.

By default, the first item in the drop-down list is selected.

To define a pre-selected option, add the `selected` attribute to the option:

Example

```
<option value="fiat" selected>Fiat</option>
```

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Visible Values:

Use the `size` attribute to specify the number of visible values:

Example

```
<select name="cars" size="3">
  <option value="volvo">Volvo</option>
  <option value="saab">Saab</option>
  <option value="fiat">Fiat</option>
```

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Allow Multiple Selections:

Use the `multiple` attribute to allow the user to select more than one value:

Example

```
<select name="cars" size="4" multiple>
  <option value="volvo">Volvo</option>
  <option value="saab">Saab</option>
  <option value="fiat">Fiat</option>
  <option value="audi">Audi</option>
</select>
```

The <textarea> Element

The `<textarea>` element defines a multi-line input field (**a text area**):

Example

```
<textarea name="message" rows="10" cols="30">
The cat was playing in the garden.
</textarea>
```

The `rows` attribute specifies the visible number of lines in a text area.

The `cols` attribute specifies the visible width of a text area.

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The cat was playing in the garden.

You can also define the size of the text area by using CSS:

Example

```
<textarea name="message" style="width:200px; height:600px;">
The cat was playing in the garden.
</textarea>
```

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The <button> Element

The `<button>` element defines a clickable **button**:

Example

```
<button type="button" onclick="alert('Hello World!')">Click Me!</button>
```

This is how the HTML code above will be displayed in a browser:

Click Me!

Note: Always specify the **type** attribute for the button element. Different browsers may use different default types for the button element.

HTML5 Form Elements

HTML5 added the following form elements:

- `<datalist>`
- `<output>`

Note: Browsers do not display unknown elements. New elements that are not supported in older browsers will not "destroy" your web page.

HTML5 <datalist> Element

The `<datalist>` element specifies a list of pre-defined options for an `<input>` element.

Users will see a drop-down list of the pre-defined options as they input data.

The `list` attribute of the `<input>` element, must refer to the `id` attribute of the `<datalist>` element.

Example

```
<form action="/action_page.php">
  <input list="browsers">
  <datalist id="browsers">
```

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```html
      <option value="Chrome">
      <option value="Opera">
      <option value="Safari">
    </datalist>
</form>
```

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HTML5 <output> Element

The `<output>` element represents the result of a calculation (like one performed by a script).

Example

Perform a calculation and show the result in an `<output>` element:

```html
<form action="/action_page.php"
  oninput="x.value=parseInt(a.value)+parseInt(b.value)">
  0
  <input type="range"  id="a" name="a" value="50">
  100 +
  <input type="number" id="b" name="b" value="50">
  =
  <output name="x" for="a b"></output>
  <br><br>
  <input type="submit">
</form>
```

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HTML Exercises

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Test Yourself With Exercises

Exercise:

Dans le formulaire ci-dessous, ajoutez une liste déroulante vide avec le nom "voitures".

```
<form action = "/ action_page.php">
<                   >
</        >
</form>
```

Soumettre une réponse »

[Commencez l'exercice](#)

Éléments de formulaire HTML

Tag	Description
<u>\<form\></u>	Defines an HTML form for user input
<u>\<input\></u>	Defines an input control
<u>\<textarea\></u>	Defines a multiline input control (text area)
<u>\<label\></u>	Defines a label for an \<input\> element
<u>\<fieldset\></u>	Groups related elements in a form
<u>\<legend\></u>	Defines a caption for a \<fieldset\> element
<u>\<select\></u>	Defines a drop-down list
<u>\<optgroup\></u>	Defines a group of related options in a drop-down list

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Defines a clickable button

Specifies a list of pre-defined options for input controls

Defines the result of a calculation

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