LEARNING TO LOVE FORMS

THE AJAX EXPERIENCE 2007

AARON GUSTAFSON
EASY! DESIGNS, LLC

FORMS ARE A NECESSARY EVIL

SIMPLE FORM:
CONTACT US

Send us a message

Name

Email

Message

Go

SIMPLE FORM:
CONTACT US

Send us a message

Name

Email

Message

Go

FORM Element
establishes a form

`ACTION` is the only required attribute and should always be a URI

`METHOD` defaults to "get"

`NAME` is depreciated; use `ID` instead

```
<form id="contact-form"
      action="/action-page.php"
      method="post">

 <!-- the rest of our form will go here -->

</form>
```

SIMPLE FORM:
CONTACT US

FIEDSET **Element**
used to group related fields

LEGEND **Element**
used to provide a caption for
a FIELDSET

```html
<form id="contact-form" action="/action-page.php" method="post">
  <fieldset>
   <legend>Send us a message</legend>

   <!-- the rest of our form will go here -->

  </fieldset>
</form>
```

SIMPLE FORM:
CONTACT US

Send us a message

Name	
Email	
Message	

Go

Containing FORM Controls

`P` **or** `DIV`
sensible choices, but not very accurate (except in certain instances)

`OL` **or** `UL`
most forms are lists of questions or form controls, so these are better

```html
<form id="contact-form" action="/action-page.php" method="post">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <p><!-- form control --></p>
    <p><!-- form control --></p>
    <p><!-- form control --></p>
  </fieldset>
</form>
```

```html
<form id="contact-form" action="/action-page.php" method="post">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <ol>
      <li><!-- form control --></li>
      <li><!-- form control --></li>
      <li><!-- form control --></li>
    </ol>
  </fieldset>
</form>
```

SIMPLE FORM:
CONTACT US

Send us a message

Name [　　　　　　　　　　　　]

Email [　　　　　　　　　　　　]

Message [　　　　　　　　　　]

Go

INPUT Text Control

`type="name"` is a basic text input field

(also `type="password"` for content you want hidden)

NAME vs. ID

`NAME` is for the back end

`ID` is for the front end

```html
<form id="contact-form" action="#" method="post">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <ol>
      <li>Name
        <input type="text" name="name"
          id="contact-name" /></li>
      <li>Email
        <input type="text" name="email"
          id="contact-email" /></li>
      <li><!-- form control --></li>
    </ol>
  </fieldset>
</form>
```

SIMPLE FORM:
CONTACT US

Send us a message

Name

Email

Message

Go

TEXTAREA
a multiline text form control

requires ROWS and COLS attributes!!!

```
<form id="contact-form" action="#" method="post">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <ol>
      <li>Name
          <input type="text" name="name" id="contact-name" /></li>
      <li>Email
          <input type="text" name="email" id="contact-email" /></li>
      <li>Message
          <textarea name="message"
           id="contact-message"
           rows="4" cols="30"></textarea></li>
    </ol>
  </fieldset>
</form>
```

SIMPLE FORM:
CONTACT US

Send us a message

Name	
Email	
Message	

Go

Working with LABEL

this element provides to means of associating its content with a form control:

implicit association

LABEL wraps the form control and the text

explicit association

LABEL's FOR attribute is an ID reference to the form control

```html
<form id="contact-form" action="/action-page.php" method="post">
   <fieldset>
     <legend>Send us a message</legend>
     <ol>

       <li><label>Name
           <input ... /></label></li>
       ...
     </ol>
   </fieldset>
</form>
```

```html
<form id="contact-form" action="/action-page.php" method="post">
   <fieldset>
     <legend>Send us a message</legend>
     <ol>
       <li><label for="contact-name">Name</label>
           <input id="contact-name" ... /></li>
       ...
     </ol>
   </fieldset>
</form>
```

SIMPLE FORM:
CONTACT US

Send us a message

Name

Email

Message

Go

Buttons

trigger events in a form; use either `INPUT` or `BUTTON` element

Common `TYPE`s

`submit` – submits the form; default button type

`reset` – resets all form control values back to their defaults when the page loaded

```
<form id="contact-form" action="#" method="post">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <ol>
      ...
    </ol>
    <input type="submit" value="Go" />
  </fieldset>
</form>
```

```
<form id="contact-form" action="#" method="post">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <ol>
      ...
    </ol>
    <button type="submit">Go</button>
  </fieldset>
</form>
```
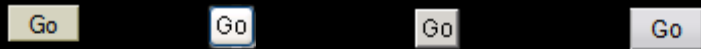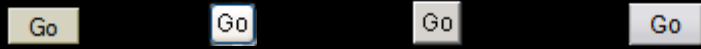
SIDEBAR:
BUTTONS
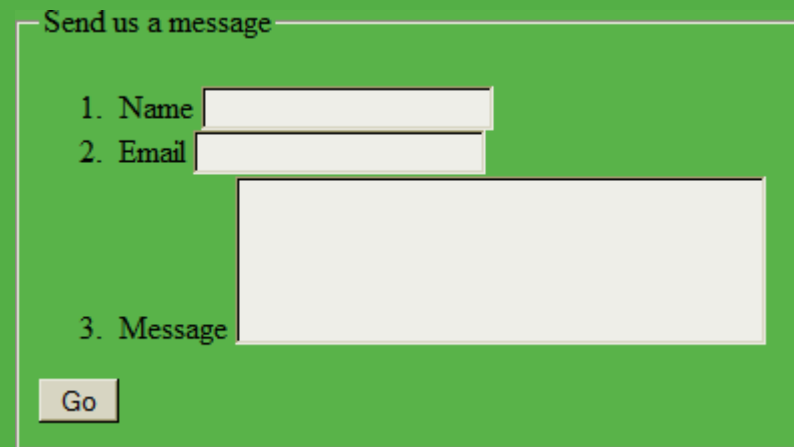
WINDOWS XP					OS X				
Go	Go	Go	Go	**INPUT**	Go	Go	Go	Go	Go
Go	Go	Go	Go	**BUTTON**	Go	Go	Go	Go	Go
Mozilla	IE 6/7 (XP)	IE 6/7 (classic)	Opera		Safari	Camino	Firefox	IE 5	Opera

SIMPLE FORM:
CONTACT US


```html
<form id="contact-form" action="#" method="post">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <ol>
      <li><label for="contact-name">Name</label>
          <input type="text" id="contact-name"
                 name="name" /></li>
      <li><label for="contact-email">Email</label>
          <input type="text" id="contact-email"
                 name="email" /></li>
      <li><label for="contact-message">Message</label>
          <textarea id="contact-message"
                    name="message" rows="4"
                    cols="30"></textarea></li>
    </ol>
    <button type="submit">Go</button>
  </fieldset>
</form>
```

SIMPLE FORM:
CONTACT US


```css
body {
  font: 62.5%
"Lucida Sans Unicode",
"Lucida Grande",
sans-serif;
}
ol, ul, p {
  font-size: 1.2em;
  line-height: 1.5;
}
```

```html
<form id="contact-form" action="#" method="post">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <ol>
      <li><label for="contact-name">Name</label>
        <input type="text" id="contact-name" name="name" /></li>
      <li><label for="contact-email">Email</label>
        <input type="text" id="contact-email" name="email" /></li>
      <li><label for="contact-message">Message</label>
        <textarea id="contact-message" name="message" rows="4"
                  cols="30"></textarea></li>
    </ol>
    <button type="submit">Go</button>
  </fieldset>
</form>
```

SIMPLE FORM:
CONTACT US

Send us a message

Name [   ]

Email [   ]

[   ]

Message

[Go]

```css
form, fieldset, legend {
   border: 0;
   padding: 0;
   margin: 0;
}
legend {
   font-size: 2em;
}
form ol, form ul {
   list-style: none;
   margin: 0;
   padding: 0;
}
```

```html
<form id="contact-form" action="#" method="post">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <ol>
      <li><label for="contact-name">Name</label>
          <input type="text" id="contact-name" name="name" /></li>
      <li><label for="contact-email">Email</label>
          <input type="text" id="contact-email" name="email" /></li>
      <li><label for="contact-message">Message</label>
          <textarea id="contact-message" name="message" rows="4"
                    cols="30"></textarea></li>
    </ol>
    <button type="submit">Go</button>
  </fieldset>
</form>
```

SIMPLE FORM:
CONTACT US

```css
form li {
  margin: 0 0 .75em;
}
label {
  display: block;
}
input, textarea {
  width: 250px;
}
```

Send us a message
Name

Email

Message

Go

```html
<form id="contact-form" action="#" method="post">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <ol>
      <li><label for="contact-name">Name</label>
          <input type="text" id="contact-name" name="name" /></li>
      <li><label for="contact-email">Email</label>
          <input type="text" id="contact-email" name="email" /></li>
      <li><label for="contact-message">Message</label>
          <textarea id="contact-message" name="message" rows="4"
                    cols="30"></textarea></li>
    </ol>
    <button type="submit">Go</button>
  </fieldset>
</form>
```

SIMPLE FORM:
CONTACT US

```css
form li {
  clear: both;
  margin: 0 0 .75em;
  padding: 0;
}
label {
  display: block;
  float: left;
  line-height: 1.6;
  margin-right: 10px;
  text-align: right;
  width: 120px;
}
```

Send us a message

Name

Email

Message

Go

```html
<form id="contact-form" action="#" method="post">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <ol>
      <li><label for="contact-name">Name</label>
          <input type="text" id="contact-name" name="name" /></li>
      <li><label for="contact-email">Email</label>
          <input type="text" id="contact-email" name="email" /></li>
      <li><label for="contact-message">Message</label>
          <textarea id="contact-message" name="message" rows="4"
                    cols="30"></textarea></li>
    </ol>
    <button type="submit">Go</button>
  </fieldset>
</form>
```

SIMPLE FORM:
CONTACT US

Send us a message

Name [   ]

Email [   ]

Message [   ]
       [   ]
       [   ]

[Go]

```css
legend {
    font-size: 2em;
    line-height: 1.8;
    padding-bottom: .5em;
}
button {
    margin-left: 130px;
    cursor: pointer;
}
```

```html
<form id="contact-form" action="#" method="post">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <ol>
      <li><label for="contact-name">Name</label>
          <input type="text" id="contact-name" name="name" /></li>
      <li><label for="contact-email">Email</label>
          <input type="text" id="contact-email" name="email" /></li>
      <li><label for="contact-message">Message</label>
          <textarea id="contact-message" name="message" rows="4"
                    cols="30"></textarea></li>
    </ol>
    <button type="submit">Go</button>
  </fieldset>
</form>
```

SIMPLE FORM:
CONTACT US

Send us a message

Name: Aaron Gustafson

Email: aaron@easy-designs.net

Message: I would like to know more about how to style forms.

GO

```css
label:after {
    content: ':';
}
input, textarea {
    background: #ddd;
    width: 250px;
}
input:focus,
textarea:focus {
    background: #fff;
}
/* Some styles to get
   the baselines to
   match & to unify the
   type used */
```

```html
<form id="contact-form" action="#" method="post">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <ol>
      <li><label for="contact-name">Name</label>
          <input type="text" id="contact-name" name="name" /></li>
      <li><label for="contact-email">Email</label>
          <input type="text" id="contact-email" name="email" /></li>
      <li><label for="contact-message">Message</label>
          <textarea id="contact-message" name="message" rows="4"
                    cols="30"></textarea></li>
    </ol>
    <button type="submit">Go</button>
  </fieldset>
</form>
```

SIMPLE FORM:
CONTACT US

```css
body {
  font: 62.5% "Lucida Sans
    Unicode", "Lucida Grande",
    sans-serif;
}
ol, ul, p {
  font-size: 1.2em;
  line-height: 1.5;
}
form, fieldset, legend {
  border: 0;
  margin: 0;
  padding: 0;
}
legend {
  font-size: 2em;
  line-height: 1.8;
  padding-bottom: .5em;
}
form ol, form ul {
  list-style: none;
  margin: 0;
  padding: 0;
}
form li {
  clear: both;
  margin: 0 0 .75em;
  padding: 0;
}
label {
  display: block;
  float: left;
  line-height: 1.6;
  margin-right: 10px;
  text-align: right;
  width: 120px;
}

label:after {
  content: ':';
}
input, textarea {
  background: #ddd;
  font: 1em Arial, Helvetica,
    sans-serif;
  padding: 1px 3px;
  width: 250px;
}
textarea {
  line-height: 1.3em;
  padding: 0 3px;
}
input:focus, textarea:focus {
  background: #fff;
}
button {
  background: #ffd100;
  border: 2px outset #333;
  color: #333;
  cursor: pointer;
  font-size: .9em;
  font-weight: bold;
  letter-spacing: .3em;
  margin-left: 130px;
  padding: .2em .5em;
  text-transform: uppercase;
}
```

SIMPLE FORM:
CONTACT US

Send us a message

Name:

Email:

Subject: I noticed a website error ▼

| I noticed a website error |
| I have a question |
| Other |

Message:

GO

SIMPLE FORM:
CONTACT US

SELECTion Lists

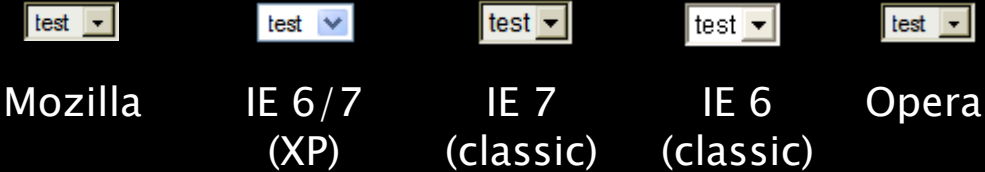allows selection of one or more OPTIONs

On OPTION elements, the VALUE attribute is optional (contents are submitted by default)

```html
<form id="contact-form" action="#" method="post">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <ol>
      ...
    <li><label
        for="contact-subject">Subject</label>
      <select id="contact-subject"
              name="subject">
       <option value="Error">I noticed a
        website error</option>
       <option value="Question">I have a
        question</option>
       <option>Other</option>
      </select></li>
      ...
    </ol>
    <button type="submit">Go</button>
  </fieldset>
</form>
```
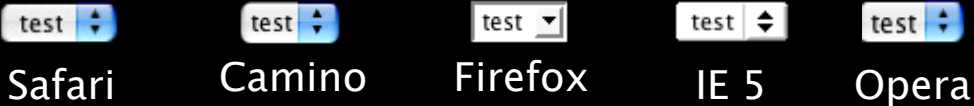
SIDEBAR:
SELECTS

WINDOWS XP

Mozilla	IE 6/7 (XP)	IE 7 (classic)	IE 6 (classic)	Opera

OS X

Safari	Camino	Firefox	IE 5	Opera

SIMPLE FORM:
CONTACT US

Send us a message

Name:

Email:

Subject: I noticed a website error ▾

Message:

GO

```
<form id="contact-form" action="#" method="post">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <ol>
      ...
      <li><label for="contact-subject">Subject</label>
        <select id="contact-subject" name="subject">
          <option value="Error">I noticed a website error</option>
          <option value="Question">I have a question</option>
          <option>Other</option>
        </select></li>
      ...
    </ol>
    <button type="submit">Go</button>
  </fieldset>
</form>
```

SIMPLE FORM:
CONTACT US

Send us a message

Name:

Email:

Subject: I noticed a website error ▾

Message:

GO

```css
select {
  background: #ddd;
  width: 260px;
  /* width is *usually*
     the input width +
     input padding +
     4px */
}
input:focus,
textarea:focus,
select:focus {
  background: #fff;
}
```

```html
<form id="contact-form" action="#" method="post">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <ol>
      ...
      <li><label for="contact-subject">Subject</label>
        <select id="contact-subject" name="subject">
          <option value="Error">I noticed a website error</option>
          <option value="Question">I have a question</option>
          <option>Other</option>
        </select></li>
      ...
    </ol>
    <button type="submit">Go</button>
  </fieldset>
</form>
```
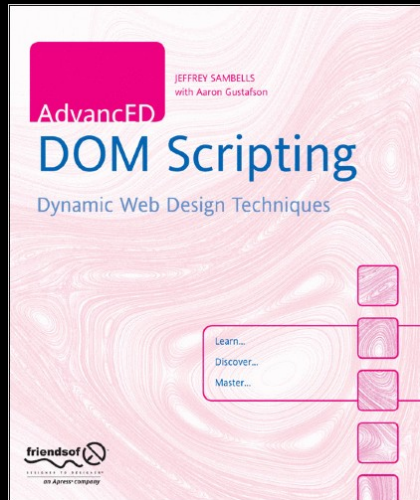
CUSTOM
SELECTS

FauxSelect

code.google.com/p/
easy-designs/wiki/FauxSelect

SELECT Something New
easy-designs.net/articles/replaceSelect/

SELECT Something New Pt. 2
easy-designs.net/articles/replaceSelect2/

SIMPLE FORM:
CONTACT US

Subject: [I noticed a website error ▾]

Message: [   ]

I would prefer to be contacted by

◉ email   ◉ phone

[GO]

SIMPLE FORM:
CONTACT US

Subject: I noticed a website error

Message:

I would prefer to be contacted by

email   phone

GO

Nested FIELDSETs

a great way to organize radio or checkbox groups

The LEGEND is the question or statement

Lists organize the possible responses (OL or UL)

implicit LABELs provide an easy way to style in IE6

```html
...
<li>
 <fieldset class="radio">
  <legend>I would prefer to be
  contacted by</legend>
  <ul>
   <li><label><input type="radio"
    name="method" value="email" />
    email</label></li>
   <li><label><input type="radio"
    name="method" value="phone" />
    phone</label></li>
  </ul>
 </fieldset>
</li>
...
```

SIMPLE FORM:
CONTACT US

Email:

Phone:

Subject: I noticed a website error

Message:

I would prefer to be contacted by

email:

phone:

GO

```html
<form id="contact-form" action="#" method="post">
    ...
    <li>
      <fieldset class="radio">
        <legend>I would prefer to be contacted by</legend>
        <ul>
          <li><label><input type="radio" name="method" value="email" />
              email</label></li>
          <li><label><input type="radio" name="method" value="phone" />
              phone</label></li>
        </ul>
      </fieldset>
    </li>
    ...
</form>
```

SIMPLE FORM:
CONTACT US

```css
.radio legend {
  font-size: 1em;
  line-height: 1.5;
  padding: 0 0 0 6px;
  margin: 0;
}
.radio label {
  display: inline;
  width: auto;
  margin: 0;
}
```

Send us a message

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Subject: I noticed a website error

Message:

I would prefer to be contacted by

email:
phone:

GO

```html
<form id="contact-form" action="#" method="post">
    ...
    <li>
      <fieldset class="radio">
        <legend>I would prefer to be contacted by</legend>
        <ul>
          <li><label><input type="radio" name="method" value="email" />
              email</label></li>
          <li><label><input type="radio" name="method" value="phone" />
              phone</label></li>
        </ul>
      </fieldset>
    </li>
    ...
</form>
```

SIMPLE FORM:
CONTACT US

Send us a message

Name: [   ]

Email: [   ]

Phone: [   ]

Subject: [I noticed a website error ▼]

Message: [   ]

I would prefer to be contacted by

○ email

○ phone

[GO]

```css
.radio {
  margin-left: 125px;
}
.radio ul {
  font-size: 1em;
  margin: .3em 0 0;
}
.radio label:after {
  content: '';
}
label input {
  background:
    transparent;
  width: auto;
}
```

```html
<form id="contact-form" action="#" method="post">
    ...
    <li>
      <fieldset class="radio">
        <legend>I would prefer to be contacted by</legend>
        <ul>
          <li><label><input type="radio" name="method" value="email" />
              email</label></li>
          <li><label><input type="radio" name="method" value="phone" />
              phone</label></li>
        </ul>
      </fieldset>
    </li>
    ...
</form>
```

SIMPLE FORM:
CONTACT US

Send us a message

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Subject: I noticed a website error

Message:

I would prefer to be contacted by

○ email   ○ phone

GO

```
.radio li {
  float: left;
  margin: 0;
  width: 48%;
  clear: none;
}
label input {
  width: auto;
  position: relative;
  top: 2px;
}
```

```
<form id="contact-form" action="#" method="post">
    ...
    <li>
      <fieldset class="radio">
        <legend>I would prefer to be contacted by</legend>
        <ul>
          <li><label><input type="radio" name="method" value="email" />
              email</label></li>
          <li><label><input type="radio" name="method" value="phone" />
              phone</label></li>
        </ul>
      </fieldset>
    </li>
    ...
</form>
```

SIMPLE FORM:
CONTACT US

Send us a message

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Subject: I noticed a website error ▼

Message:

This is an exceedingly long LEGEND to demonstrate the odd beha

○ email   ○ phone

GO

```
.radio legend {
  font-size: 1em;
  line-height: 1.5;
  padding: 0 0 0 6px;
  margin: 0;
  max-width: 270px;
  width: 270px;
}
```

```
...
  <fieldset class="radio">
    <legend>This is an exceedingly long
<code>LEGEND</code> to demonstrate the odd
behavior of <code>LEGEND</code>s</legend>
      <ul>
        <li><label><input type="radio" name="method" value="email" />
            email</label></li>
        <li><label><input type="radio" name="method" value="phone" />
            phone</label></li>
      </ul>
  </fieldset>
...
```

SIMPLE FORM:
CONTACT US

```css
.radio legend span {
  display: block;
  width: 270px;
}
```

Send us a message

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Subject: I noticed a website error

Message:

This is an exceedingly long LEGEND to demonstrate the odd behavior of LEGENDS

○ email   ○ phone

GO

```html
...
  <fieldset class="radio">
    <legend><span>This is an exceedingly long
      <code>LEGEND</code> to demonstrate the odd behavior of
      <code>LEGEND</code>s</span></legend>
    <ul>
      <li><label><input type="radio" name="method" value="email" />
          email</label></li>
      <li><label><input type="radio" name="method" value="phone" />
          phone</label></li>
    </ul>
  </fieldset>
...
```
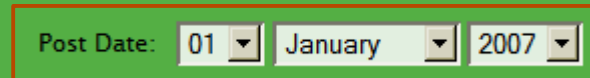
SIMPLE FORM:
DATE SELECT

Post Date: [01 ▼] [January ▼] [2007 ▼]

SIMPLE FORM:
DATE SELECT
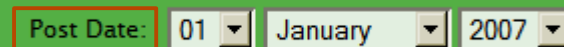
Post Date: 01 ▼ January ▼ 2007 ▼

Getting organized

```html
<fieldset class="date">

  <!-- the rest will go here -->

</fieldset>
```

SIMPLE FORM:
DATE SELECT

Not really a LABEL

Post Date: 01 ▼ January ▼ 2007 ▼

```html
<fieldset class="date">
  <legend>Post Date</legend>

  <!-- the rest will go here -->

</fieldset>
```

SIMPLE FORM:
DATE SELECT

Post Date: 01 ▾ January ▾ 2007 ▾

Not just a SELECT
we need some LABELing

```html
<fieldset class="date">
  <legend>Post Date</legend>
  <ol>
   <li>
    <label for="date-day">Date</label>
    <select id="date-day" name="day">
     <option>01</option>

     ...
     <option>31</option>
    </select>
   </li>
  </ol>
</fieldset>
```

SIMPLE FORM:
DATE SELECT

Post Date:　01 ▾　January ▾　2007 ▾

And so on

```html
<fieldset class="date">
  <legend>Post Date</legend>
  <ol>
    <li>
      <label for="date-day">Date</label>
      ...
    </li>
    <li>
      <label for="date-month">Month</label>
      <select id="date-month" name="month">
        <option value="01">January</option>
        ...
        <option value="12">December</option>
      </select>
    </li>
  </ol>
</fieldset>
```

SIMPLE FORM:
DATE SELECT

Post Date: 01 ▾ January ▾ 2007 ▾

And so forth

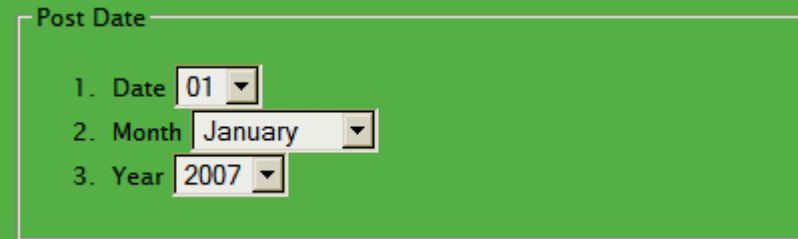```
<fieldset class="date">
  <legend>Post Date</legend>

      <label for="date-day">Date</label>
      ...

      <label for="date-month">Month</label>
      ...

      <label for="date-year">Year</label>
      <select id="date-year" name="year">
        <option>2007</option>
        <option>2008</option>
      </select>

</fieldset>
```

## SIMPLE FORM:
# DATE SELECT



```css
body {
  background: #54af44;
    font: 62.5% "Lucida
    Sans Unicode", "Lucida
    Grande", sans-serif;
}
ol, ul, p, legend {
  font-size: 1.2em;
  line-height: 1.5;
}
legend {
  color: #000;
}
```

```html
<fieldset class="date">
  <legend>Post Date</legend>
  <ol>
    <li><label for="date-day">Date</label>
      ...
    </li>
    <li><label for="date-month">Month</label>
      ...
    </li>
    <li><label for="date-year">Year</label>
      ...
    </li>
  </ol>
</fieldset>
```

SIMPLE FORM:
DATE SELECT

Post Date

Date `01` ▾
Month `January` ▾
Year `2007` ▾

```css
.date {
  border: 0;
  padding: 0;
}
.date ol {
  list-style: none;
  margin: 0 0 0 130px;
  padding: 0;
}
```

```html
<fieldset class="date">
  <legend>Post Date</legend>
  <ol>
    <li><label for="date-day">Date</label>
      ...
    </li>
    <li><label for="date-month">Month</label>
      ...
    </li>
    <li><label for="date-year">Year</label>
      ...
    </li>
  </ol>
</fieldset>
```

SIMPLE FORM:
DATE SELECT

Post Date

Date 01 ▼ Month January ▼ Year 2007 ▼

```css
.date li {
  float: left;
}
```

```html
<fieldset class="date">
  <legend>Post Date</legend>
  <ol>
    <li><label for="date-day">Date</label>
      ...
    </li>
    <li><label for="date-month">Month</label>
      ...
    </li>
    <li><label for="date-year">Year</label>
      ...
    </li>
  </ol>
</fieldset>
```

SIMPLE FORM:
DATE SELECT

Post Date

Date [01 ▼] Month [January ▼] Year [2007 ▼]

```css
.date select {
  background: #e2efe0;
  margin: 0 .25em 0 0;
}
.date select:focus {
  background: #fff;
}
```

```html
<fieldset class="date">
  <legend>Post Date</legend>
  <ol>
    <li><label for="date-day">Date</label>
      ...
    </li>
    <li><label for="date-month">Month</label>
      ...
    </li>
    <li><label for="date-year">Year</label>
      ...
    </li>
  </ol>
</fieldset>
```

SIMPLE FORM:
DATE SELECT

Post Date

`01` ▾ `January` ▾ `2007` ▾

```css
.date label {
  position: absolute;
  left: -999em;
}
```

```html
<fieldset class="date">
  <legend>Post Date</legend>
  <ol>
    <li><label for="date-day">Date</label>
      ...
    </li>
    <li><label for="date-month">Month</label>
      ...
    </li>
    <li><label for="date-year">Year</label>
      ...
    </li>
  </ol>
</fieldset>
```

SIMPLE FORM:
DATE SELECT

Post Date [01 ▼] [January ▼] [2007 ▼]

```css
.date {
  border: 0;
  padding: 0;
  position: relative;
}
.date legend span {
  display: block;
  line-height: 1.6;
  text-align: right;
  width: 120px;
  position: absolute;
  top: 0;
  left: 0;
}
```

```html
<fieldset class="date">
  <legend><span>Post Date</span></legend>
  <ol>
    <li><label for="date-day">Date</label>
      ...
    </li>
    <li><label for="date-month">Month</label>
      ...
    </li>
    <li><label for="date-year">Year</label>
      ...
    </li>
  </ol>
</fieldset>
```

SIMPLE FORM:
DATE SELECT

Post Date: 01 ▾ January ▾ 2007 ▾

```css
.date legend
span:after {
  content: ":";
}
```

```html
<fieldset class="date">
  <legend><span>Post Date</span></legend>
  <ol>
    <li><label for="date-day">Date</label>
      ...
    </li>
    <li><label for="date-month">Month</label>
      ...
    </li>
    <li><label for="date-year">Year</label>
      ...
    </li>
  </ol>
</fieldset>
```

MAKING
THE MOST OF
MESSAGES

MESSAGING:
REQUIRED

Send us a message

Required fields are marked *.

Name*:

Emai[required]

Phone:

Subject: | I noticed a website error ▼ |

Message:

MESSAGING:
REQUIRED

What is the * anyway?
Well, it stands for something else and in HTML, the closest to that we have to convey that is the ABBR element.

```
<form id="contact-form" action="test.php" method="get">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <p>Required fields are marked
       <abbr title="required">*</abbr>.</p>
  <ol>
    <li>
      <label for="contact-name">
        Name<abbr title="required">*</abbr>
      </label>
      <input type="text" id="contact-name" name="name" />
    </li>
    ...
```

EASY! DESIGNS, LLC

MESSAGING:
REQUIRED

Send us a message

Required fields are marked *.

Name *
Email   required
Phone:
Subject: I noticed a website error
Message:

If you want to go all-out, you can
but that seems like overkill

```html
<form id="contact-form" action="test.php" method="get">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <p>Required fields are marked
      <em><abbr title="required">*</abbr></em>.
    </p>
    <ol>
      <li class="required">
        <label for="contact-name">
          Name<em><abbr title="required">*
          </abbr></em>
        </label>
        <input type="text" id="contact-name" name="name" />
      </li>
      ...
```

MESSAGING:
REQUIRED

Send us a message

Required fields are marked *.

Name*: [   ]

Email: [   ]

Phone: [   ]

Subject: [I noticed a website error ▾]

Message: [   ]

```
<form id="contact-form" action="test.php" method="get">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <p>Required fields are marked
      <abbr title="required">*</abbr>.</p>
    <ol>
      <li>
        <label for="contact-name">
          Name<abbr title="required">*</abbr>
        </label>
        <input type="text" id="contact-name" name="name" />
      </li>
      ...
```

MESSAGING:
REQUIRED

```css
abbr {
  cursor: help;
  font-style: normal;
  border: 0;
}
```

Send us a message
Required fields are marked *.

Name*: [   ]

Email: [   ]

Phone: [   ]

Subject: [I noticed a website error   ▼]

Message: [   ]

```html
<form id="contact-form" action="test.php" method="get">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <p>Required fields are marked
      <abbr title="required">*</abbr>.</p>
    <ol>
      <li>
        <label for="contact-name">
          Name<abbr title="required">*</abbr>
        </label>
        <input type="text" id="contact-name" name="name" />
      </li>
      ...
```

MESSAGING:
ERRORS

Send us a message

We encountered **1 error** while trying to process this form:

- You forgot to include <u>your email address</u>

Required fields are marked *.

Name*: Aaron Gustafson

Email*:   < You forgot to fill in your email

Phone: format: 123-456-7890

Subject*: I noticed a website error ▼

MESSAGING:
ERRORS

How should we strongly emphasize even more important error advisories?

How should we highlight the field?

```
...
<li class="error">
  <label for="contact-email">
    Email<abbr title="required">*</abbr>
    <strong class="err"> You forgot to fill
    in your email</strong>
  </label>
  <input type="text" id="contact-email" name="email" />
</li>
...
```

MESSAGING:
ERRORS

Send us a message

Required fields are marked *.

Name*:	Aaron Gustafson
Email* **You forgot to fill in your email**:	
Phone:	format: 123-456-7890
Subject*:	I noticed a website error ▼
Message*:	Your homepage doesn't validate! And you call yourself a standardista.

```
...
<li class="error">
  <label for="contact-email">
    Email<abbr title="required">*</abbr><strong class="err"> You forgot
    to fill in your email</strong>
  </label>
  <input type="text" id="contact-email" name="email" />
</li>
...
```

MESSAGING:
ERRORS

```css
strong.err {
  color: #ffdfdf;
  display: block;
  padding-left: 5px;
  text-align: left;
}
```

Send us a message

Required fields are marked *.

Name*: Aaron Gustafson

Email*:

You forgot to fill in your email

:

Phone: format: 123-456-7890

Subject*: I noticed a website error

Message*: Your homepage doesn't validate! And you call yourself a standardista.

```html
...
<li class="error">
  <label for="contact-email">
    Email<abbr title="required">*</abbr><strong class="err"> You forgot
    to fill in your email</strong>
  </label>
  <input type="text" id="contact-email" name="email" />
</li>
...
```

MESSAGING:
ERRORS

essage

marked *.

Aaron Gustafson

< You forgot to fill in your email

format: 123-456-7890

I noticed a website error

Your homepage doesn't validate! And you call yourself a standardista.

```css
strong.err {
  color: #ffdfdf;
  display: block;
  line-height: 1.8;
  padding-left: 5px;
  text-align: left;
  white-space: nowrap;
  position: absolute;
  top: 0;
  left: 390px;
}
strong.err:before {
  content: "<"
}
```

```html
...
<li class="error">
  <label for="contact-email">
    Email<abbr title="required">*</abbr><strong class="err"> You forgot
    to fill in your email</strong>
  </label>
  <input type="text" id="contact-email" name="email" />
</li>
...
```

MESSAGING:
ERRORS

```css
.error input {
  border: 2px solid #b00;
  background: #ffdfdf;
}
.error input:focus {
  background: #fff;
}
```

essage

marked *.

Aaron Gustafson

< You forgot to fill in your email

format: 123-456-7890

I noticed a website error

Your homepage doesn't validate! And you call
yourself a standardista.

```html
...
<li class="error">
  <label for="contact-email">
    Email<abbr title="required">*</abbr><strong class="err"> You forgot
    to fill in your email</strong>
  </label>
  <input type="text" id="contact-email" name="email" />
</li>
...
```

MESSAGING:
ERRORS

Send us a message

We encountered **1 error** while trying to process this form:
- You forgot to include your email address

Required fields are marked *.

Name*: Aaron Gustafson

How do we notify users of errors?

It is best to be upfront about errors encountered and to say, in plain language, what the user needs to do to fix it

and linking to the field with errors doesn't hurt

```html
<form id="contact-form" action="test.php" method="get">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <div id="errors">
      <p>We encountered <strong>1 error</strong>
      while trying to process this form:</p>
      <ol>
        <li>You forgot to include <a
          href="#contact-email">your email
          address</a></li>
      </ol>
    </div>
    <p>Required fields are marked <abbr title="required">*</abbr>.</p>
    ...
```

MESSAGING:
ERRORS

Send us a message

We encountered **1 error** while trying to process this form:

You forgot to include your email address

Required fields are marked *.

Name*: Aaron Gustafson

Email*:   < You

Phone: format: 123-456-7890

Subject*: I noticed a website error

Message*: Your homepage doesn't validate! And you call yourself a standardista.

```
<form id="contact-form" action="test.php" method="get">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <div id="errors">
      <p>We encountered <strong>1 error</strong> while trying to process
        this form:</p>
      <ol>
        <li>You forgot to include <a href="#contact-email">your email
          address</a></li>
      </ol>
    </div>
    <p>Required fields are marked <abbr title="required">*</abbr>.</p>
    ...
```

MESSAGING:
ERRORS

```css
#errors {
  background: #ffdfdf;
  border: 2px solid #b00;
  color: #333;
  margin: .5em 0 1em;
  padding: 10px;
}
```

Send us a message

We encountered **1 error** while trying to process this form:

You forgot to include your email address

Required fields are marked *.

Name*: Aaron Gustafson

Email*: < You

Phone: format: 123-456-7890

Subject*: I noticed a website error

Message*: Your homepage doesn't validate! And you call

```html
<form id="contact-form" action="test.php" method="get">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <div id="errors">
      <p>We encountered <strong>1 error</strong> while trying to process
        this form:</p>
      <ol>
        <li>You forgot to include <a href="#contact-email">your email
          address</a></li>
      </ol>
    </div>
    <p>Required fields are marked <abbr title="required">*</abbr>.</p>
    ...
```

MESSAGING:
ERRORS

```css
#errors p {
  margin: 0;
  padding: 0;
}
#errors ol {
  list-style: disc;
  margin: 0 0 0 20px;
}
```

Send us a message

We encountered **1 error** while trying to process this form:

- You forgot to include your email address

Required fields are marked *.

Name*: Aaron Gustafson

Email*: < You

Phone: format: 123-456-7890

Subject*: I noticed a website error

Message*: Your homepage doesn't validate! And you call yourself a standardista.

```html
<form id="contact-form" action="test.php" method="get">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <div id="errors">
      <p>We encountered <strong>1 error</strong> while trying to process
        this form:</p>
      <ol>
        <li>You forgot to include <a href="#contact-email">your email
          address</a></li>
      </ol>
    </div>
    <p>Required fields are marked <abbr title="required">*</abbr>.</p>
    ...
```

MESSAGING:
ERRORS

```css
#errors a {
  color: #b00;
}
```

Send us a message

We encountered **1 error** while trying to process this form:
* You forgot to include your email address

Required fields are marked *.

Name*: `Aaron Gustafson`

Email*: `` ← You

Phone: `format: 123-456-7890`

Subject*: `I noticed a website error ▼`

Message*: `Your homepage doesn't validate! And you call yourself a standardista.`

```html
<form id="contact-form" action="test.php" method="get">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <div id="errors">
      <p>We encountered <strong>1 error</strong> while trying to process
        this form:</p>
      <ol>
        <li>You forgot to include <a href="#contact-email">your email
          address</a></li>
      </ol>
    </div>
    <p>Required fields are marked <abbr title="required">*</abbr>.</p>
    ...
```

PARTING
ADVICE

- treat forms like any other piece of (X)HTML

- be aware of browser inconsistencies & make accommodations (when possible)

- break a complex form into bite-size chunks

- look for ways to provide richer meaning/a better experience

- apply your CSS layout knowledge for the rest of the page to a form

- don't over-complicate form design

- learn to love forms

FORMS ARE NOT NECESSARILY EVIL

LEARNING TO LOVE FORMS

THE AJAX EXPERIENCE 2007

http://slideshare.net/AaronGustafson