LEARNING TO LOVE FORMS

AN EVENT APART 2007

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FORMS ARE
A NECESSARY
EVIL

SIMPLE FORM:
CONTACT US

Send us a message

Name

Email

Message

Go

EASY! DESIGNS, LLC

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

Send us a message

Name

Email

Message

Go

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

```
<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>
```

```
<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="text"` 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

```
<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!!!

```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>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

```
<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>
```

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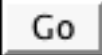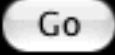
```
<form id="contact-form" action="#" method="post">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <ol>
      ...
    </ol>
    <input type="submit" value="Go" />
  </fieldset>
</form>
```

```
<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

Send us a message

1. Name [_____]
2. Email [_____]

3. Message [_____]

[Go]

```
<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

Send us a message

Name

Email

Message

Go

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

```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;
}
```

```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>
```
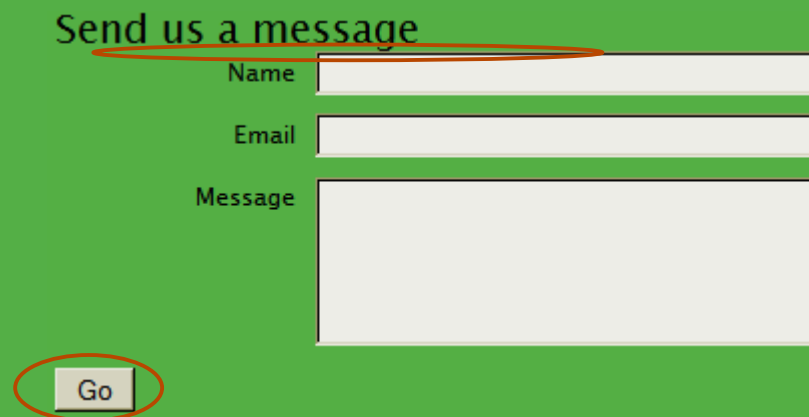
SIMPLE FORM:
CONTACT US

```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 */
```

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

```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

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: OPTGROUPS

What is your favorite kind of fruit?

Golden Delicious ▼
Apples
Golden Delicious
Granny Smith
Macintosh
Red Delicious
Berries
Blackberries
Blueberries
Raspberries
Strawberries

```html
<select id="favorite-fruit" name="favorite-fruit">
  <optgroup label="Apples">
    <option value="Golden Delicious Apples">Golden Delicious</option>
    <option value="Granny Smith Apples">Granny Smith</option>
    <option value="Macintosh Apples">Macintosh</option>
    <option value="Red Delicious Apples">Red Delicious</option>
  </optgroup>
  <optgroup label="Berries">
    <option>Blackberries</option>
    <option>Blueberries</option>
    <option>Raspberries</option>
    <option>Strawberries</option>
  </optgroup>
</select>
```

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>
```
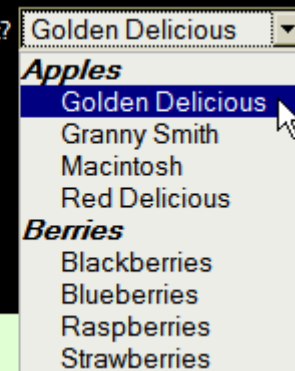
SIMPLE FORM:
CONTACT US

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>
```

SIDEBAR:
SELECTS

WINDOWS XP

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

OS X

test ⬍	test ⬍	test ▾	test ⬍	test ⬍
Safari	Camino	Firefox	IE 5	Opera

CUSTOM
SELECTS
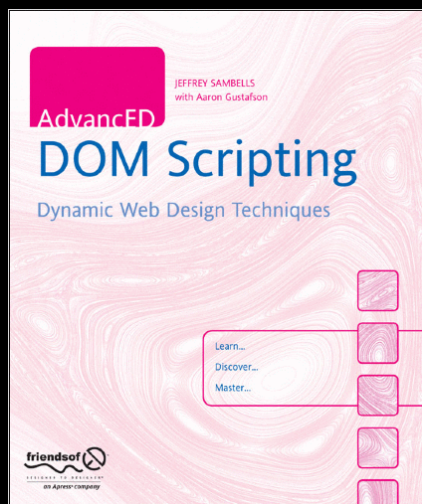
FauxSelect

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

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

```
...
<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

I would prefer to be contacted by

email:

phone:

GO

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

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

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

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

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: [   ]

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

```
.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]

```
...
  <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:
CONTACT US

Subject: | I noticed a website error ▼

Message:

I would prefer to be contacted by

⦿ email   ⦿ phone

☐ Please add me to your mailing list

GO

SIMPLE FORM:
CONTACT US

Message:

I would prefer to be contacted by

○ email   ○ phone

☐ Please add me to your mailing list

GO

Confirmations

a little CLASSification goes a long way

```
<form id="contact-form" action="#" method="post">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <ol>
      ...
      <li class="confirm">
        <input type="hidden" name="mailing-list"
               value="0" />
        <label><input type="checkbox"
               name="mailing-list" value="1" />
               Please add me to your mailing
               list</label></li>
      ...
    </ol>
    <button type="submit">Go</button>
  </fieldset>
</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

☐ Please add me
to your mailing list:

GO

```
<form id="contact-form" action="#" method="post">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <ol>
      ...
      <li class="confirm">
        <input type="hidden" name="mailing-list" value="0" />
        <label><input type="checkbox" name="mailing-list" value="1" />
               Please add me to your mailing list</label></li>
      ...
    </ol>
    <button type="submit">Go</button>
  </fieldset>
</form>
```

SIMPLE FORM:
CONTACT US

```css
.confirm label {
  display: block;
  float: none;
  margin-left: 125px;
  text-align: left;
  width: 270px;
}
```

Send us a message

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Subject: I noticed a website error

Message:

I would prefer to be contacted by

○ email   ○ phone

☐ Please add me to your mailing list:

GO

```html
<form id="contact-form" action="#" method="post">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <ol>
      ...
      <li class="confirm">
        <input type="hidden" name="mailing-list" value="0" />
        <label><input type="checkbox" name="mailing-list" value="1" />
              Please add me to your mailing list</label></li>
      ...
    </ol>
    <button type="submit">Go</button>
  </fieldset>
</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

☐ Please add me to your mailing list

GO

```css
.confirm {
  margin-bottom: 1.4em;
}
.radio label:after,
.confirm label:after {
  content: '';
}
```

```html
<form id="contact-form" action="#" method="post">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <ol>
      ...
      <li class="confirm">
        <input type="hidden" name="mailing-list" value="0" />
        <label><input type="checkbox" name="mailing-list" value="1" />
              Please add me to your mailing list</label></li>
      ...
    </ol>
    <button type="submit">Go</button>
  </fieldset>
</form>
```

MORE FORMS OF FORMS

SIMPLE FORM:
SEARCH BOX

Search this site for [   ] **GO**

SIMPLE FORM:
SEARCH BOX

Search this site for [ ] **GO**

POST vs. GET
Search forms are traditionally GET requests to allow the action page (i.e. the results) to be bookmarkable.

```html
<form id="search-form"
      action="/action-page.php"
      method="get">

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

</form>
```

SIMPLE FORM:
SEARCH BOX

Search this site for [   ] **GO**

You need something

Sometimes a `FIELDSET` is unnecessary, but in XHTML, you need something to wrap the contents of a form

```
<form id="search-form" action="/action-page.php" method="get">
  <p>
  <!-- the rest of our form will go here -->
  <p>
</form>
```

SIMPLE FORM:
SEARCH BOX

Search this site for [   ] **GO**

Easy-peasy

```html
<form id="search-form" action="/action-page.php" method="get">
  <p>
    <label for="search-query">Search this
      site for</label>
    <input type="text" id="search-query"
      name="query" />
  <p>
</form>
```

SIMPLE FORM:
SEARCH BOX

Search this site for [   ] [GO]

It's a BUTTON
big shock, I know

```
<form id="search-form" action="/action-page.php" method="get">
  <p>
    <label for="search-query">Search this site for</label>
    <input type="text" id="search-query" name="query" />
    <button type="submit">Go</button>
  <p>
</form>
```

SIMPLE FORM:
SEARCH BOX

Search this site for [_____] [Go]

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

```html
<form id="search-form" action="/action-page.php" method="get">
  <p>
    <label for="search-query">Search this site for</label>
    <input type="text" id="search-query" name="query" />
    <button type="submit">Go</button>
  <p>
</form>
```

SIMPLE FORM:
SEARCH BOX

Search this site for [   ] [Go]

```css
label {
    line-height: 2em;
}
input {
    border: 1px solid #c00;
    background: #ebebeb;
    margin: 0 .5em;
    padding: 2px 4px;
}
input:focus {
    background: #fff;
}
```

```html
<form id="search-form" action="/action-page.php" method="get">
  <p>
    <label for="search-query">Search this site for</label>
    <input type="text" id="search-query" name="query" />
    <button type="submit">Go</button>
  <p>
</form>
```

SIMPLE FORM:
SEARCH BOX

```css
button {
  background: #c00;
  border: 0;
  color: #fff;
  cursor: pointer;
  font-size: .9em;
  font-weight: bold;
  letter-spacing: .1em;
  padding: 2px 8px;
  text-transform:
    uppercase;
}
```

Search this site for [   ] [GO]

```html
<form id="search-form" action="/action-page.php" method="get">
  <p>
    <label for="search-query">Search this site for</label>
    <input type="text" id="search-query" name="query" />
    <button type="submit">Go</button>
  <p>
</form>
```

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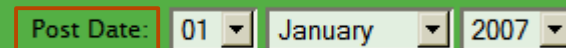
Post Date: [01 ▼] [January ▼] [2007 ▼]

EASY! DESIGNS, LLC

SIMPLE FORM:
DATE SELECT

Post Date: 01 ▾ January ▾ 2007 ▾

Getting organized

```
<fieldset class="date">

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

</fieldset>
```

EASY! DESIGNS, LLC

SIMPLE FORM:
DATE SELECT

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

Not really a LABEL

```
<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

```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>
      <select id="date-year" name="year">
        <option>2007</option>
        <option>2008</option>
      </select>
    </li>
  </ol>
</fieldset>
```

SIMPLE FORM:
DATE SELECT

Post Date

1. Date `01`
2. Month `January`
3. Year `2007`

```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>
```
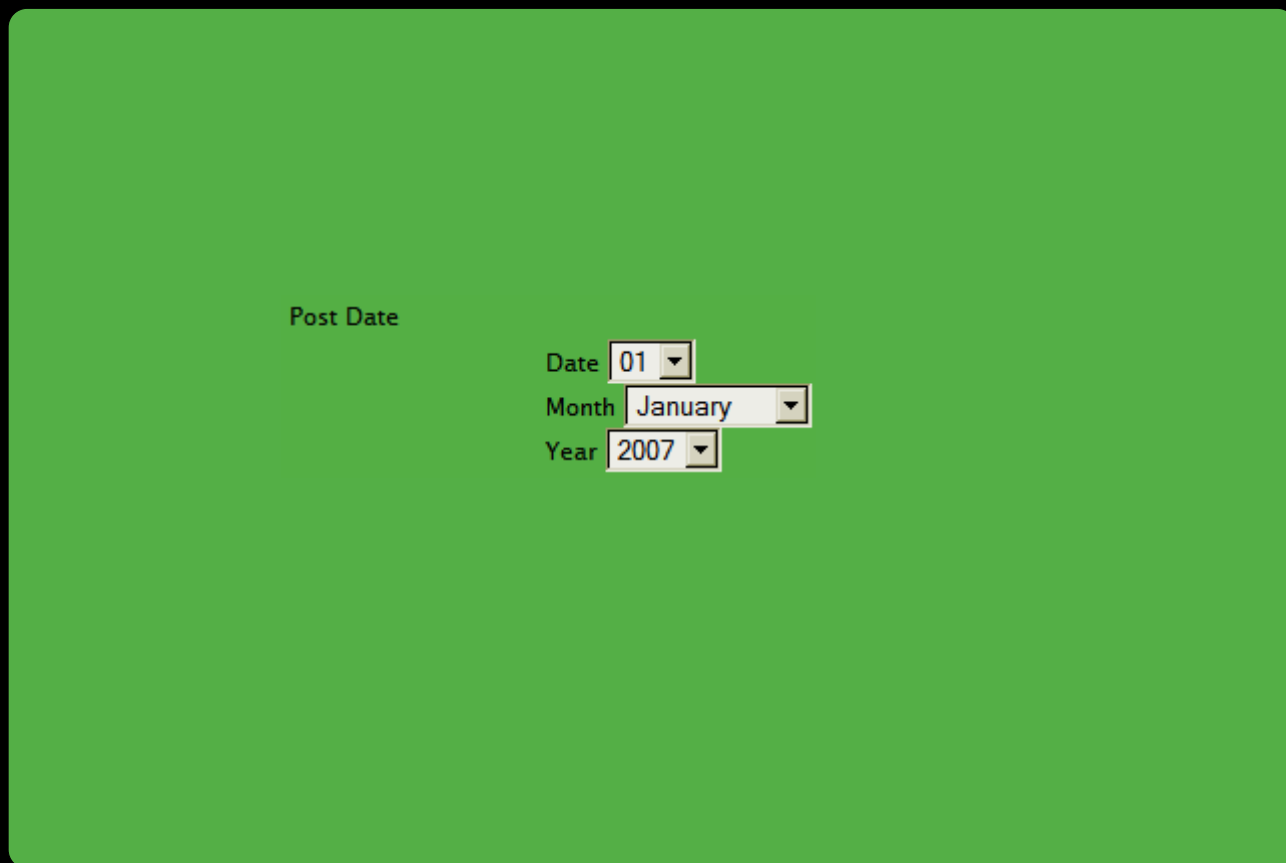
SIMPLE FORM:
DATE SELECT

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*:

required

Email:

Phone:

Subject: I noticed a website error

Message:

EASY! DESIGNS, LLC

MESSAGING: **REQUIRED**

Send us a message

Required fields are marked *.

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

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>
    ...
```

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:
FORMATTING

Send us a message

Required fields are marked *.

Name*: Aaron Gustafson

Email*: aaron@easy-designs.net

Phone: 203   format: 123-456-7890

Subject*: I noticed a website error

Message*:

MESSAGING:
FORMATTING

Send us a message
Required fields are marked *.

Name*:	Aaron Gustafson
Email*:	aaron@easy-designs.net
Phone:	203 format: 123-456-7890
Subject*:	I noticed a website error ▼
Message*:	

How should we emphasize important formatting info?

```
...
<li>
  <label for="contact-email">
    Email<abbr title="required">*</abbr>
  </label>
  <input type="text" id="contact-email" name="email" />
</li>
<li>
  <label for="contact-phone">
    Phone<em
      class="msg"> format: 123-456-7890</em>
  </label>
  <input type="text" id="contact-phone" name="phone" />
</li>
<li>
  <label for="contact-subject">
    Subject<abbr title="required">*</abbr>
  </label>
  <select id="contact-subject" name="subject">
    <option value="Error">I noticed a website error</option>
    ...
```

MESSAGING:
FORMATTING

Send us a message

Required fields are marked *.

Name*:

Email*:

Phone *format:*
123-456-7890:

Subject*: [I noticed a website error ▼]

Message*:

```
...
<li>
  <label for="contact-phone">Phone<em
    class="msg"> format: 123-456-7890</em></label>
  <input type="text" id="contact-phone" name="phone" />
</li>
...
```

MESSAGING:
FORMATTING

```
label em.msg {
   font-size: .8em;
   font-style: normal;
   line-height: 2.5;
}
```

Send us a message

Required fields are marked *.

Name*: [   ]

Email*: [   ]

Phone format: [   ]

123-456-7890:

Subject*: [I noticed a website error   ▼]

Message*: [   ]

```
...
<li>
  <label for="contact-phone">Phone<em
     class="msg"> format: 123-456-7890</em></label>
  <input type="text" id="contact-phone" name="phone" />
</li>
...
```

MESSAGING:
FORMATTING

```
label{
  ...
  position: relative;
}
label em.msg {
  color: #aaa;
  font-size: .8em;
  font-style: normal;
  line-height: 2.5;
  position: absolute;
  right: -266px;
  top: 0;
}
```

Send us a message

Required fields are marked *.

Name*:	
Email*:	
Phone:	format: 123-456-7890
Subject*:	I noticed a website error ▼
Message*:	

```
...
<li>
  <label for="contact-phone">Phone<em
    class="msg"> format: 123-456-7890</em></label>
  <input type="text" id="contact-phone" name="phone" />
</li>
...
```

MESSAGING:
FORMATTING

Send us a message

Required fields are marked *.

Name*:	Aaron Gustafson
Email*:	aaron@easy-designs.net
Phone:	203 format: 123-456-7890
Subject*:	I noticed a website error ▼
Message*:	

```
...
<li>
  <label for="contact-phone">Phone<em
    class="msg"> format: 123-456-7890</em></label>
  <input type="text" id="contact-phone" name="phone" />
</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

Email*: [   ] < You forgot to fill in your email

Phone: [format: 123-456-7890]

Subject*: [I noticed a website error   ▼]

MESSAGING:
ERRORS

narked *.

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

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

narked *.

| 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

arked *.

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.

```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

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

```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*:	
Phone:	format: 123-456-7890
Subject*:	I noticed a website error ▼
Message*:	Your homepage doesn't validate! And you call yourself a standardista.

< You

```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 <u>your email address</u>

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
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      <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
AN EVENT APART 2007

http://slideshare.net/AaronGustafson