



[Home](#) / [Reference](#) / [Functions](#) / `balanceTags()`

Search resources



`balanceTags(string $text, bool $force = false): string`

Balances tags if forced to, or if the 'use_balanceTags' option is set to true.

Parameters

`$text`stringrequired

Text to be balanced

`$force`booloptional

If true, forces balancing, ignoring the value of the option.

Default: `false`

Return

string Balanced text

More Information

The option 'use_balanceTags' is used for whether the tags will be balanced. Either the `$force` parameter or 'use_balanceTags' option need to be true before the tags will be balanced.

Source

wp-includes/formatting.php

Copy

```
function balanceTags( $text, $force = false ) { // phpcs:ignore WordPress.NamingConventions.ValidFunctionName
    if ( $force || (int) get_option( 'use_balanceTags' ) === 1 ) {
        return force_balance_tags( $text );
    } else {
        return $text;
    }
}
```

[View all references](#) · [View on Trac](#) · [View on GitHub](#)

Related

Uses

[force_balance_tags\(\)](#)

wp-includes/formatting.php

Changelog

Version	Description
0.71	Introduced.

User Contributed Notes

Codex8 years ago

^ 1 ▾

Unclosed LI tags

Copy

```
<?php
$html = '<ul>
  <li>this
  <li>is
  <li>a
  <li>list
</ul>';
echo balanceTags($html, true);
?>
```

Will output this HTML:

Copy

```
<ul>
  <li>this
</li><li>is
</li><li>a
</li><li>list
</li></ul>
```

[Log in to add feedback](#)

kitchin2 years ago

^ 0 ▾

The ``use_balanceTags`` option has default 0. The admin UI for it was removed several years ago, along with the UI for ``use_smilies`` (default 1), in Dashboard/Settings/Writing. So the core filters calling ``balanceTags()``, such as ``content_save_pre``, do nothing unless the user set an option in the distant past, or a plugin/theme changed the setting.

The bug ticket back then said the TinyMCE editor handles the balancing in ‘Visual’ mode, and users in ‘Text’ mode should be allowed to do their own balancing, by default. Opinion changed to that as the ticket developed:

<https://core.trac.wordpress.org/ticket/5161>

Most coders will want to use ``force_balance_tags()`` instead of ``balanceTags()``.

[Log in to add feedback](#)

You must [log in](#) before being able to contribute a note or feedback.

- [About](#)
- [News](#)
- [Hosting](#)
- [Privacy](#)
- [Showcase](#)
- [Themes](#)
- [Plugins](#)
- [Patterns](#)
- [Learn](#)
- [Documentation](#)
- [Developers](#)
- [WordPress.tv ↗](#)
- [Get Involved](#)
- [Events](#)
- [Donate ↗](#)
- [Swag Store ↗](#)
- [WordPress.com ↗](#)
- [Matt ↗](#)
- [bbPress ↗](#)
- [BuddyPress ↗](#)



CODE IS POETRY

