26 PRE Tag

**PRE Tag**

Tag: **PRE**  
Description: Used to set pre-formatted text. Always closes.

The PRE tag always displays content using the browser-default monospace font (usually Courier 10pt). BR tags are not required for line breaks within the PRE tag; ordinary carriage returns are recognized as line breaks, making the BR tag unnecessary. The PRE tag also respects space characters, displaying all spaces individually, rather than compressing a group of spaces together and displaying them as a single space.

Example:

<pre>

Shoo, Shoo, Shoemaker

By Ogden Nash

I often grieve for Uncle Hannibal

Who inadvertently became a cannibal.

He asked Aunt Mary to roast him the gobbler;

She understood him to say, the cobbler.

</pre>

Displayed:

Shoo, Shoo, Shoemaker

By Ogden Nash

I often grieve for Uncle Hannibal

Who inadvertently became a cannibal.

He asked Aunt Mary to roast him the gobbler;

She understood him to say, the cobbler.

The PRE tag is also useful for displaying multiple-line code fragments, as it preserves spaces and carriage returns that would ordinarily be ignored.

Example:

<pre>

Now is the

time for all good people

to come to their senses

</pre>

Displayed:

Now is the

time for all good people

to come to their senses

The PRE tag can also be used to create space between elements on an HTML page; every carriage return placed between the **<PRE></PRE>** is displayed in the browser. This is an officially supported alternative to the more common (but non-standards-compliant) practice of placing multiple BR tags on a page in order to create visible white space.

Example (non-standard/unofficial -- avoid this):

<p>Here is a paragraph of text.</p>

<br>

<br>

<br>

<p>Here is another paragraph of text.</p>

Displayed:

Here is a paragraph of text.

Here is another paragraph of text.

Example (supported/standards-compliant -- use this):

<p>Here is a paragraph of text.</p>

<pre>

</pre>

<p>Here is another paragraph of text.</p>

Displayed:

Here is a paragraph of text.

Here is another paragraph of text.