**HTML Interview Questions**

**1) What is HTML?**

HTML is short for HyperText Markup Language, and is the language of the World Wide Web. It is the standard text formatting language used for creating and displaying pages on the Web. HTML documents are made up of two things: the content and the tags that formats it for proper display on pages.

**2) What are tags?**

Content is placed in between HTML tags in order to properly format it. It makes use of the less than symbol (<) and the greater than symbol (>). A slash symbol is also used as a closing tag. For example:

**3) Do all HTML tags come in pair?**

No, there are single HTML tags that does not need a closing tag. Examples are the <img> tag and <br> tags.

**4) What are some of the common lists that can be used when designing a page?**

You can insert any or a combination of the following list types:

– ordered list

– unordered list

– definition list

– menu list

– directory list

Each of this list types makes use of a different tag set to compose

**5) How do you insert a comment in html?**

Comments in html begins with “<!–“nd ends with “–>”. For example:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | <!-- A SAMPLE COMMENT --> |

**6) Do all character entities display properly on all systems?**

No, there are some character entities that cannot be displayed when the operating system that the browser is running on does not support the characters. When that happens, these characters are displayed as boxes.

**7) What is image map?**

Image map lets you link to many different web pages using a single image. You can define shapes in images that you want to make part of an image mapping.

**8 ) What is the advantage of collapsing whitespace?**

White spaces are blank sequence of space characters, which is actually treated as a single space character in html. Because the browser collapses multiple space into a single space, you can indent lines of text without worrying about multiple spaces. This enables you to organize the html code into a much more readable format.

**9) Can attribute values be set to anything or are there specific values that they accept?**

Some attribute values can be set to only predefined values. Other attributes can accept any numerical value that represents the number of pixels for a size.

**10) How do you insert a copyright symbol on a browser page?**

To insert the copyright symbol, you need to type &copy; or & #169; in an HTML file.

**11) How do you create links to sections within the same page?**

Links can be created using the <a> tag, with referencing through the use of the number (#) symbol. For example, you can have one line as <a href=”#topmost”>BACK TO TOP</a>, which would result in the words “BACK TO TOP” appearing on the webpage and links to a bookmark named topmost. You then create a separate tag command like <a name=”topmost”> somewhere on the top of the same webpage so that the user will be linked to that spot when he clicked on “BACK TO TOP”.

**12) Is there any way to keep list elements straight in an html file?**

By using indents, you can keep the list elements straight. If you indent each sub nested list in further than the parent list that contains it, you can at a glance determine the various lists and the elements that it contains.

**13) If you see a web address on a magazine, to which web page does it point?**

Every web page on the web can have a separate web address. Most of these addresses are relative to the top-most web page. The published web address that appears within magazines typically points this top-most page. From this top level page, you can access all other pages within the web site.

**14) What is the use of using alternative text in image mapping?**

When you use image maps, it can easily become confusing and difficult to determine which hotspots corresponds with which links. Using alternative text lets you put a descriptive text on each hotspot link.

**15) Do older html files work on newer browsers?**

Yes, older html files are compliant to the HTML standard. Most older files work on the newer browsers, though some features may not work.

**16) Does a hyperlink apply to text only?**

No, hyperlinks can be used on text as well as images. That means you can convert an image into a link that will allow user to link to another page when clicked. Just surround the image within the <a href=” “>…</a> tag combinations.

**17) If the user’s operating system does not support the needed character, how can the symbol be represented?**

In cases wherein their operating system does not support a particular character, it is still possible to display that character by showing it as an image instead.

**18) How do you change the number type in the middle of a list?**

The <li> tag includes two attributes – type and value. The type attribute can be used to change the numbering type for any list item. The value attribute can change the number index.

**19) What are style sheets?**

Style sheets enable you to build consistent, transportable, and well-defined style templates. These templates can be linked to several different web pages, making it easy to maintain and change the look and feel of all the web pages within a site.

**20) What bullet types are available?**

With ordered lists, you can select to use a number of different list types including alphabetical and Roman numerals. The type attribute for unordered lists can be set to disc, square, or circle.

**21) How do you create multicolored text in a web page?**

To create text with different colors, use the <font color=”color”>…</font> tags for every character that you want to apply a color. You can use this tag combination as many times as needed, surrounding a single character or an entire word.

**22) Why are there both numerical and named character entity values?**

The numerical values are taken from the ASCII values for the various characters, but these can be difficult to remember. Because of this, named character entity values were created to make it easier for web page designers to use.

**23) Write a HTML table tag sequence that outputs the following:**

50 pcs 100 500

10 pcs 5 50

Answer:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10  11  12 | <table>  <tr>  <td>50 pcs</td>  <td>100</td>  <td>500</td>  </tr>  <tr>  <td>10 pcs</td>  <td>5</td>  <td>50</td>  </tr>  </table> |

**24) What is the advantage of grouping several checkboxes together?**

Although checkboxes don’t affect one another, grouping checkboxes together helps to organize them. Checkbox buttons can have their own name and do not need to belong to a group. A single web page can have many different groups of checkboxes.

**25) What will happen if you overlap sets of tags?**

If two sets of html tags are overlapped, only the first tag will be recognized. You will recognize this problem when the text does not display properly on the browser screen.

**26) What are applets?**

Applets are small programs that can be embedded within web pages to perform some specific functionality, such as computations, animations, and information processing. Applets are written using the Java language.

**27) What if there is no text between the tags or if a text was omitted by mistake? Will it affect the display of the html file?**

If there is no text between the tags, then there is nothing to format, so no formatting will appear. Some tags, especially tags without a closing tag like the <img> tag, do not require any text between them.

**28) Is it possible to set specific colors for table borders?**

You can specify a border color using style sheets, but the colors for a table that does not use style sheets will be the same as the text color.

**29) How do you create a link that will connect to another web page when clicked?**

To create hyperlinks, or links that connect to another web page, use the href tag. The general format for this is: <a href=”site”>text</a>

Replace “site” with the actual page url that is supposed to be linked to when the text is clicked.

**30) What other ways can be used to align images and wrap text?**

Tables can be used to position text and images. Another useful way to wrap text around an image is to use style sheets.

**31) Can a single text link point to two different web pages?**

No. The <a> tag can accept only a single href attribute, and it can point to only a single web page.

**32) What is the difference between the directory and menu lists and the unordered list?**

The key differences is that the directory and menu lists do not include attributes for changing the bullet style.

**33) Can you change the color of bullets?**

The bullet color is always the same as that of the first character in the list litem. If you surround the <li> and the first character with a set of <font> tags with the color attribute set, the bullet color and the first character will be a different color from the text.

**34) What are the limits of the text field size?**

The default size for a text field is around 13 characters, but if you include the size attribute, you can set the size value to be as low as 1. The maximum size value will be determined by the browser width. If the size attribute is set to 0, the size will be set to the default size of 13 characters.

**35) Do <th> tags always need to come at the start of a row or column?**

Any <tr> tag can be changed to a <th> tag. This causes the text contained within the <th> tag to be displayed as bold in the browser. Although <th> tags are mainly used for headings, they do not need to be used exclusively for headings.

**36) What is the relationship between the border and rule attributes?**

Default cell borders, with a thickness of 1 pixel, are automatically added between cells if the border attribute is set to a nonzero value. Likewise, If the border attribute is not included, a default 1-pixel border appears if the rules attribute is added to the <table> tag.

**37) What is a marquee?**

A marquee allows you to put a scrolling text in a web page. To do this, place whatever text you want to appear scrolling within the <marquee> and </marquee> tags.

**38) How do you create a text on a webpage that will allow you to send an email when clicked?**

To change a text into a clickable link to send email, use the mailto command within the href tag. The format is as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | <A HREF=”mailto:youremailaddress”>text to be clicked</A> |

**39) Are <br> tags the only way to separate sections of text?**

No. The <br> tag is only one way to separate lines of text. Other tags, like the <p> tag and <blockquote> tag, also separate sections of text.

**40) Are there instances where text will appear outside of the browser?**

By default, the text is wrapped to appear within the browser window. However, if the text is part of a table cell with a defined width, the text could extend beyond the browser window.

**41) How are active links different from normal links?**

The default color for normal and active links is blue. Some browsers recognize an active link when the mouse cursor is placed over that link; others recognize active links when the link has the focus. Those that don’t have a mouse cursor over that link is considered a normal link.

**42) Do style sheets limit the number of new style definitions that can be included within the brackets?**

Style sheets do not limit the number of style definitions that can be included within the brackets for a given selector. Every new style definition, however, must be separated from the others by a semicolon symbol.

**43) Can I specify fractional weight values such as 670 or 973 for font weight?**

Implementation largely depends on the browser, but the standard does not support fractional weight values. Acceptable values must end with two zeroes.

**44) What is the hierarchy that is being followed when it comes to style sheets?**

If a single selector includes three different style definitions, the definition that is closest to the actual tag takes precedence. Inline style takes priority over embedded style sheets, which takes priority over external style sheets.

**45) Can several selectors with class names be grouped together?**

You can define several selectors with the same style definition by separating them with commas. This same technique also works for selectors with class names.

**46) What happens if you open the external CSS file in a browser?**

If you try to open the external CSS file in a browser, the browser cannot open the file, because the file has a different extension. The only way to use an external CSS file is to reference it using <link/> tag within another html document.

**47) How do you make a picture into a background image of a web page?**

To do this, place a tag code after the </head> tag as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | <body background = “image.gif”> |

Replace image.gif with the name of your image file. This will take the picture and make it the background image of your web page.

**48) What happens if the list-style-type property is used on a non-list element like a paragraph?**

If the list-style-type property is used on a non-list element like a paragraph, the property will be ignored and have no effect on the paragraph.

**49) When is it appropriate to use frames?**

Frames can make navigating a site much easier. If the main links to the site are located in a frame that appears at the top or along the edge of the browser, the content for those links can be displayed in the remainder of the browser window.

**50) What happens if the number of values in the rows or cols attribute doesn’t add up to 100 percent?**

The browser sizes the frames relative to the total sum of the values. If the cols attribute is set to 100%, 200%, the browser displays two vertical frames with the second being twice as big as the first.

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10. What is “Semantic HTML?”

* + Semantic HTML is a coding style where the tags embody what the text is meant to convey. In Semantic HTML, tags like <b></b> for bold, and <i></i> for italic should not be used, reason being they just represent formatting, and provide no indication of meaning or structure. The [semantically correct thing](http://skilledup.go2cloud.org/aff_c?offer_id=136&aff_id=2&url=http://www.adobe.com/devnet/html5/articles/semantic-markup.html) to do is use <strong></strong> and <em></em>. These tags will have the same bold and italic effects, while demonstrating meaning and structure (emphasis in this case).

11. What does DOCTYPE mean?

* + The term DOCTYPE tells the browser which type of HTML is used on a webpage. In turn, the browsers use DOCTYPE to determine how to render a page. Failing to use DOCTYPE or using a wrong DOCTYPE may load your page in Quirks Mode. See example:

<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD HTML 4.01 Transitional//EN" "http://www.w3.org/TR/html4/loose.dtd">.

12. What’s the difference between standards mode and quirks mode?

* + [Quirks Mode](http://stackoverflow.com/questions/1695787/what-is-quirks-mode) is a default compatibility mode and may be different from browser to browser, which may result to a lack of consistency in appearance from browser to browser.

13. What are the limitations when serving XHTML pages?

* + Perhaps the biggest issue is the poor browser support XHTML currently enjoys. Internet Explorer and a number of other user agents cannot parse XHTML as XML. Thus, it is not the extensible language it was promised to be. There are many other issues. [Take your pick](http://www.webdevout.net/articles/beware-of-xhtml).

14. How many HTML tags are should be used for the most simple of web pages?

* + 8 total. 4 pairs of tags.

<HTML>

<HEAD>

<TITLE>Simplest page ever!</TITLE>

</HEAD>

<BODY>

Doesn’t get simpler than this.

</BODY>

</HTML>

15. How do you make comments without text being picked up by the browser?

* + Comments are used to explain and clarify code or to prevent code from being recognized by the browser. Comments start with “\*<!--” and end with ” -->“.

<!-- Insert comment here. -->

16. What is the difference between linking to an image, a website, and an email address?

* + To link an image, use <img> tags. You need specify the image in quotes using the source attribute, src in the opening tag. For hyperlinking, the anchor tag, <a>, is used and the link is specified in the href attribute. Text to be hyperlinked should be placed between the anchor tags. Little known fact: href stands for “[hypertext reference](http://tomayko.com/writings/wtf-is-an-href-anyway).” When linking to an email, the href specification will be “mailto:send@here.com.” See examples below:

<img src=”HTMLrocks.jpg”></img>

<a href=”skilprelaunch2.wpengine.com”>Skilledup</a>

<a href=”brad@skilledup.com”>Email Me</a>

17. My hyperlink or image is not displaying correctly, what is wrong with it?

* + It could be any number of things, but the most common mistakes are leaving out a tag bracket or quote missing for href, src, or alt text may be the issue. You should also verify the link itself.

18. What is the syntax difference between a bulleted list and numbered list?

* + Bulleted lists use the <ul> tag, which stands for “unordered,” whereas <ol> is used to create an ordered list.

19. What is the difference between <div> and <frame>?

* + A <div> is a generic container element for grouping and styling, whereas a <frame> creates divisions within a web page and should be used within the <frameset> tag. The use of <frame> and <frameset> are no longer popular and are now being replaced with the more flexible <iframe>, which has become popular for embedding foreign elements (ie. Youtube videos) into a page.

20. What is the difference between the application model of HTML and HTML5?

* + Trick question, there is no difference. HTML5 is a continuum of HTML and just a souped up version of the original HTML. There has been no major paradigm shift.

21. Ok, what’s the real difference between HTML and HTML5?

* + [There are many](http://www.html5rocks.com/). From a broader perspective, HTML was a simple language for laying out text and images on a webpage, whereas HTML5 can be viewed as an application development platform that does what HTML does that and more, including better support for audio, video, and interactive graphics. It has a number of new elements, supports offline data storage for applications, and has more robust exchange protocols. Thus, proprietary plug-in technologies like Adobe Flash, Microsoft Silverlight, Apache Pivot, and Sun JavaFX are no longer needed, because browsers can now process these elements without additional requirements.

22. What is the new DOCTYPE?

* + Instead of typing out a ridiculously long DOCTYPE statement to tell the browser how to render your webpage, this long line of code has been truncated to <!doctype html>.

23. What are some new HTML5 markup elements?

* + There are [several](http://www.w3.org/TR/html-markup/elements.html): <article>, <aside>, <bdi>, <command>, <details>, <figure>, <figcaption>, <summary>, <header>, <footer>, <hgroup>, <mark>, <meter>, <nav>, <progress>, <ruby>, <rt>, <section>, <time>, and <wpr>.

24. What elements have disappeared?

* + As mentioned above, <frame> and <frameset> have been eliminated. Other elements that are no longer supported include: <noframe>, <applet>, <bigcenter> and <basefront>.

25. What are the new media-related elements in HTML5?

* + HTML5 has strong support for media. There are now special <audio> and <video> tags. There are additional A/V support tags as well: <embed> is a container for 3rd party applications. <track> is for adding text tracks to media. <source> is useful for A/V media from multiple sources.

26. What are the new image elements in HTML5?

* + Canvas and WebGL. <Canvas> is a new element that acts as a container for graphical elements like images and graphics. Coupled with JavaScript, it supports 2D graphics. WebGL stands for Web Graphics Language, a free cross-platform API that is used for generating 3D graphics in web browsers.

27. What is the difference between SVG and <Canvas>?

* + <Canvas> is an element that manipulates two-dimensional (2D) pixels while [Scalable Vector Graphics](http://www.w3.org/TR/SVG/) works in 2D and three-dimensional (3D) vectors. Essentially, <Canvas> is to SVG as Photoshop is to Illustrator.

28. What are some new input attributes in HTML5?

* + There are many new form elements including: datalist, datetime, output, keygen, date, month, week, time, number, range, email, and url.

29. What are data- attributes good for?

* + The [HTML5 data- attribute](http://mbsy.co/99LHl?url=http://webdesign.tutsplus.com/tutorials/htmlcss-tutorials/all-you-need-to-know-about-the-html5-data-attribute/) is a new addition that assigns custom data to an element. It was built to store sensitive or private data that is exclusive to a page or application, for which there are no other matching attributes or elements.

30. What is the difference between HTML5 interaction in Sencha and Twitter/Bootstrap?

* + [Sencha](http://senchadevelopers.blogspot.com/2012/10/what-you-can-do-with-sencha.html) and [Twitter/Bootstrap](http://mbsy.co/99LHl?url=http://webdesign.tutsplus.com/tutorials/complete-websites/twitter-bootstrap-101-introduction/) are both HTML development frameworks that integrate HTML5, CSS3, and JavaScript. The major difference is that in Sencha, the three languages are all comingled together in code, whereas in Bootstrap, HTML and CSS and decoupled.

31. What purpose do Work Workers serve and what are some of their benefits?

* + [Web Workers](http://www.html5rocks.com/en/tutorials/workers/basics/) are background scripts that do not interfere with the user interface or user interactions on a webpage, allowing HTML to render uninterrupted while JavaScript works in the background.

32. Describe the difference between cookies, sessionStorage, and localStorage.

* + Cookies are small text files that websites place in a browser for tracking or login purposes. Meanwhile, [localStorage and sessionStorage](https://www.inkling.com/read/javascript-definitive-guide-david-flanagan-6th/chapter-20/localstorage-and-sessionstorage) are new objects, both of which are storage specifications but vary in scope and duration. Of the two, localStorage is permanent and website-specific whereas sessionStorage only lasts as long as the duration of the longest open tab.

33. What are some of the major new API’s that come standard with HTML5?

* + To name a few: Media API, Text Track API, Application Cache API, User Interaction, Data Transfer API, Command API, Constraint Validation API, and the History API.

34. What is the difference in caching between HTML5 and the old HTML?

* + An important feature of HTML5 is the Application Cache. It creates an offline version of a web application. and stores website files such as HTML files, CSS, images, and JavaScript, locally. It is a feature that speeds up site performance.

35. Did you remember your portfolio?

If you have past experience, all eyes will be on your work portfolio. [Image source](http://www.flickr.com/photos/23912576@N05/2962194797). Commercial re-use allowed.

Whether you learned your web development skills through online self-study or through a traditional classroom, chances are, you’re at least half-ready for an interview, especially if you were diligent in your studies. If that’s the case, these HTML5 interview questions will serve as a great refresher. If not, then they are a good gauge of your employment prospects unless you really prepare for the interview. Either way, relax and don’t sound like a robot spitting out recorded answers. Over-rehearsing won’t land you the job but it may get you an [interview horror story](http://www.skilledup.com/articles/interview-horror-stories-tips-and-skills/). Remember that one of the most important things you can do is to bring a [portfolio of past web work examples](http://www.skilledup.com/articles/demonstrate-new-skills-online-portfolio/). Beyond knowing the ins and outs of HTML, it is the one thing that can truly demonstrate the quality of your work, and it can open the door to many web development jobs. Good luck on your interview!

*Is this a career that sounds interesting to you? Let us know in the comment section or read some of our related articles below.*