HTML - Form Attributes

In **HTML**, each element has its own **attributes** that are used to define the characteristics of that particular HTML element and are placed inside the element's opening tag. The **<form>** element also has attributes that provide different functionalities like redirection on other web pages and auto-completion of text.

Form Attributes

HTML form attributes provide different functionalities, such as redirection to other web pages, auto-completion of text, specifying data validation rules, controlling the behavior of form submissions, etc.

Following is a list of the most frequently used form attributes −

- action
- method
- target
- autocomplete
- enctype
- novalidate

The action Attribute

The **action** attribute of the **<form>** element transmits the user's input to a backend script for processing. A form is of no use unless it processes the information provided by the user. Therefore, it is important to pass the URL of a program to the action attribute. Note that the **formaction** attribute can override the value of the **action** attribute.

Example

The following example illustrates the use of the **action** attribute. When we click the submit button, the form will redirect us to the home page of Tutorialspoint:

```
</>                                                    Open Compiler

<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
    <meta charset="utf-8">
    <title> The action Attribute </title>
</head>
<body>
```

```
    <!-- Start of the form element -->
    <form action = "https://www.tutorialspoint.com">
        <!-- to take input -->
        Name: <input type = "text" name = "your_name" required/>
        <br><br>
        Email: <input type = "email" name = "mail" required/>
        <br><br>
         <!-- to submit the data -->
        <input type = "submit">
    </form>
</body>
</html>
```

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The method Attribute

The **method** attribute determines which HTTP method should be used by the browser while uploading the form information. The most commonly used methods are as follows:

S.No	Values & Description
1	**GET** It is the default method for form submission, which means if we don't specify the method name explicitly, the form will use the GET method to send data.
2	**POST** It is used to send form data inside HTTP request body. It is safer than GET method.

It is not recommended to use the GET method while sending sensitive information like credit/debit card numbers and passwords because it exposes the submitted data in the URL.

Example

The following example demonstrates how to use the method attribute of the **<form>** element.

</>   Open Compiler

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
    <meta charset="utf-8">
    <title> The method Attribute </title>
```

```
    </head>
    <body>
        <!-- Start of the form element -->
        <form action = "https://www.tutorialspoint.com" method = "post">
            <!-- to take input -->
            Name: <input type = "text" name = "your_name" required/>
            <br><br>
            Email: <input type = "email" name = "mail" required/>
            <br><br>
            <!-- to submit the data -->
            <input type = "submit">
        </form>
    </body>
</html>
```

On clicking the submit button, the user will be redirected to the home page of Tutorialspoint.

The target Attribute

The **target** attribute determines the target window or frame where the result of the script will be displayed after submitting the form. The default target is the current window. The target attribute accepts the following values:

S.No.	Values & Description
1	**_self** It opens the response in the same frame as it was clicked.
2	**_blank** It opens the response in the new window or tab.
3	**_parent** It opens the response in the parent frame.
4	**_top** It opens the response in the full body of window.
5	**framename** It opens the response in the named iframe.

Example

In the following example, we will use the **target** attribute with the value **_self**. The response will be open in the current window:

</>   Open Compiler

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
    <meta charset="utf-8">
    <title> The target Attribute </title>
</head>
<body>
    <!-- Start of the form element -->
    <form action = "https://www.tutorialspoint.com" target = "_self">
        <!-- to take input -->
        Name: <input type = "text" name = "your_name" required/>
        <br><br>
        Email: <input type = "email" name = "mail" required/>
        <br><br>
         <!-- to submit the data -->
        <input type = "submit">
    </form>
</body>
</html>
```

The novalidate Attribute

The **novalidate** is a Boolean attribute that indicates the form does not need any kind of validation. The term validation refers to the process of verifying the correctness of user input based on predefined conditions. This attribute, when applied, exempts the form from such checks, allowing user inputs to bypass these conditions.

> *If Boolean attributes like novalidate are present on an HTML element, it specifies true, and in the case of absence, false is assumed. They do not accept any values.*

Example

In the previous examples, the form redirected us to a new web page when we entered our name and email. For this example, we will use the novalidate attribute, which will allow the redirection without entering any information:

```
</>                                                          Open Compiler

<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
    <meta charset="utf-8">
    <title> The novalidate Attribute </title>
```

```
    </head>
    <body>
        <!-- Start of the form element -->
        <form action = "https://www.tutorialspoint.com" target = "_blank" autocomplete="off"
    method = "get" novalidate>
            <!-- to take input -->
            Name: <input type = "text" name = "your_name" required/>
            <br><br>
            Email: <input type = "email" name = "mail" required/>
            <br><br>
            <!-- to submit the data -->
            <input type = "submit">
        </form>
    </body>
    </html>
```

The autocomplete Attribute

The **autocomplete** attribute of HTML predicts and suggests the subsequent input based on the initial characters entered in the input field. This attribute primarily has two states, namely **on** and **off**.

S.No.	Values & Description
1	**on** By default, the autocomplete attribute is set to **on**, enabling the autocomplete functionality.
2	**off** The autocomplete attribute can be toggled to **off** to disable this feature as per the requirements of the web application.

Instance

```
<form action = "https://www.tutorialspoint.com" target = "_blank" autocomplete="off"
method = "get">
```

The enctype Attribute

We use the **enctype** attribute to specify how the browser encodes the data before it sends it to the server. Its possible values are −

S.No.	Values & Description
1	**application/x-www-form-urlencoded**

		This is the standard method most forms use in simple scenarios.
2		**mutlipart/form-data** This is used when you want to upload binary data in the form of files like images, Word files etc.
3		**text/plain** It only encodes the spaces into + symbol.

Instance

```html
<form action = "https://www.tutorialspoint.com" target = "_blank" autocomplete="off"
method = "get" enctype = "text/plain">
```