

HTML - Head Elements

The header part of an HTML document is represented by the `<head>` tag. It serves as a container of various other important tags like `<title>`, `<meta>`, `<link>`, `<base>`, `<style>`, `<script>`, and `<noscript>` tags.

In this chapter, we will learn about the various head elements that are used with an HTML document inside the `<head>` tag.

HTML Head Element

In an HTML document, the head element is a section where we define metadata like the title, character set, links to external stylesheets, and other details. These informations do not display on the webpage but are helpful for the search engines and browsers. The head element is defined by the `<head>` tag.

Example

The following example demonstrates how you can use the head elements inside the `<head>` tag; you can change the content as required:

```
<head>
  <title>Page Title</title>
  <meta charset="UTF-8">
  <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
  <meta name="description" content="Meta Description of the page">
  <meta name="keywords" content="Keyword 1, Keyword 2, ...">
  <link rel="stylesheet" href="styles.css">
  <script src="script.js" defer></script>
  <link rel="icon" href="favicon.ico">
</head>
```

HTML Head Elements

The following are the commonly used elements within the `<head>`:

- `HTML <title>` Element
- `HTML <meta>` Element
- `HTML <base>` Element
- `HTML <link>` Element
- `HTML <style>` Element
- `HTML <script>` Element

Let's understand each element in detail with the help of examples.

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HTML <title> Element

The **HTML <title> tag** is used for specifying the title of the HTML document. The title must describe the content of the web page, and its format should be text only. It appears in the title bar of the browser's tab.

Example

Following is an example that shows how to give a title to an HTML document using the <title> tag:

</>

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```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
  <title>HTML Title Tag Example</title>
</head>
<body>
  <p>Describing the use of title tag</p>
</body>
</html>
```

HTML <meta> Element

The **HTML <meta> tag** is used to provide metadata about an HTML document. The metadata is nothing but additional information about the web page, including page expiry, page author, list of keywords, page description, and so forth. This information is further used for the purpose of search engine optimization. Remember, the metadata specified by the <meta> tag is not displayed on the web page, but it is machine-readable. Its most commonly used attributes are **name**, **content**, **charset**, and **http-equiv**.

Read More: [Meta Tags](#)

Example

The following example describes a few of the important usages of the <meta> tag inside an HTML document:

</>

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```

<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
  <title>HTML Meta Tag Example</title>
  <!-- Provide list of keywords -->
  <meta name="keywords" content="C, C++, Java, PHP, Perl, Python">
  <!-- Provide description of the page -->
  <meta name="description" content="Simply Easy Learning by Tutorials Point">
  <!-- Author information -->
  <meta name="author" content="Tutorials Point">
  <!-- Page content type -->
  <meta http-equiv="content-type" content="text/html; charset=UTF-8">
  <!-- Page refreshing delay -->
  <meta http-equiv="refresh" content="30">
  <!-- Page expiry -->
  <meta http-equiv="expires" content="Wed, 21 June 2006 14:25:27 GMT">
  <!-- Tag to tell robots not to index the content of a page -->
  <meta name="robots" content="noindex, nofollow">
</head>
<body>
  <p>Describing the use of HTML meta tag</p>
</body>
</html>

```

HTML <base> Element

The **HTML <base> tag** is used for specifying the base URL for all relative URLs in a page, which means all the other URLs will be concatenated into the base URL while locating the given item. We are allowed to use only one base element in our HTML document. The most frequently used attributes of the tag are **href** and **target**.

Example

In this example, all the given pages and images will be searched after prefixing the given URLs with the base URL `http://www.tutorialspoint.com/` directory:

</>

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```

<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
  <title>HTML Base Tag Example</title>
  <base href = "index.htm/" />
</head>

```

```
<body>
  
  <a href="/html/index.htm" title="HTML Tutorial"/>HTML Tutorial</a>
</body>
</html>
```

On running the above code, the tutorialspoint logo along with a link will be displayed. If we click on that link, it will redirect us to the index page of the HTML tutorial.

HTML <link> Element

In HTML, the **<link>** tag is used to specify relationships between the current webpage and another external resource. The source of external resources is placed inside the href attribute. The other attributes of the tag are **rel**, **type**, and **media**. Its most common use is to embed stylesheets into the HTML document.

Example

Following is an example of linking an external style sheet file available in the "css" subdirectory within the web root:

```
</>
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
  <title>HTML link Tag Example</title>
  <link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="/css/style.css">
</head>
<body>
  <p>It is an example of linking stysheet to the current HTML document.</p>
</body>
</html>
```

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HTML <style> Element

The **HTML <style>** tag is used to specify styles either for the whole HTML document or for a particular element. Its most common attributes are **title** and **media**.

Example

In the following example, we are defining a style for the **<p>** tag using the **<style>** tag.

```
</>
```

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```

<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
  <title>HTML style Tag Example</title>
  <base href="http://www.tutorialspoint.com/" />
  <style>
    .myclass{
      background-color: #aaa;
      padding: 10px;
    }
  </style>
</head>
<body>
  <p class="myclass">Hello, World!</p>
</body>
</html>

```

Note – To learn about how Cascading Style Sheets work, kindly check a separate tutorial available at [CSS Tutorial](#).

HTML <script> Element

The **HTML <script> tag** is used to include either an external script file or to define an internal script for the HTML document. The script is an executable code that performs some action.

Example

Following is an example where we are using a script tag to define a simple **JavaScript function**. When the user clicks on the **OK** button, an alert box will pop up with a **Hello, World** message.

```

</>
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
  <title>HTML script Tag Example</title>
  <base href="http://www.tutorialspoint.com/" />
  <script type="text/JavaScript">
    function Hello(){
      alert("Hello, World");
    }
  </script>
</head>
<body>
  <input type="button" onclick="Hello();" name="ok" value="OK" />

```

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```
</body>
```

```
</html>
```