

## Chapter 2: Doctypes

Doctypes - short for 'document type' - help browsers to understand the version of HTML the document is written in for better interpretability. Doctype declarations are not HTML tags and belong at the very top of a document. This topic explains the structure and declaration of various doctypes in HTML.

### Adding the Doctype

The `<!DOCTYPE>` declaration should always be included at the top of the HTML document, before the `<html>` tag.

Version  $\geq 5$

`<!DOCTYPE html>`

### HTML 5 Doctype

HTML5 is not based on SGML (Standard Generalized Markup Language), and therefore does not require a reference to a DTD (Document Type Definition).

HTML 5 Doctype declaration:

`<!DOCTYPE html>`

### Case Insensitivity

As per the W3.org HTML 5 DOCTYPE Spec:

A DOCTYPE must consist of the following components, in this order:

1. A string that is an ASCII case-insensitive match for the string "`<!DOCTYPE`". therefore the following DOCTYPEs are also valid:  
`<!doctype html>`  
`<!dOcTyPe html>`  
`<!DocTYpe html>`

So doctype declaration is the case insensitive and one can write any of the above declaration in the html page.