

HTML Headings

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Headings are important in HTML documents.

HTML Headings

Headings are defined with the <h1> to <h6> tags.

<h1> defines the most important heading. <h6> defines the least important heading.

Example

<h1>This is a heading</h1>  
<h2>This is a heading</h2>  
<h3>This is a heading</h3>

[**Try it Yourself »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_headings)

**Note:** Browsers automatically add some empty space (a margin) before and after each heading.

Headings Are Important

Use HTML headings for headings only. Don't use headings to make text **BIG** or **bold**.

Search engines use your headings to index the structure and content of your web pages.

Users skim your pages by its headings. It is important to use headings to show the document structure.

h1 headings should be main headings, followed by h2 headings, then the less important h3, and so on.

HTML Horizontal Rules

The **<hr>** tag creates a horizontal line in an HTML page.

The hr element can be used to separate content:

Example

<p>This is a paragraph.</p>  
<hr>  
<p>This is a paragraph.</p>  
<hr>  
<p>This is a paragraph.</p>

[**Try it Yourself »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_headings_hr)

The HTML <head> Element

The HTML **<head>** element has nothing to do with HTML headings.

The HTML <head> element contains **meta data**. Meta data are not displayed.

The HTML <head> element is placed between the <html> tag and the <body> tag:

Example

<!DOCTYPE html>  
<html>  
  
<head>  
  <title>My First HTML</title>  
  <meta charset="UTF-8">  
</head>  
  
<body>  
.  
.  
.

[**Try it Yourself »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_headings_head)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Note** | Meta data means data **about** data. HTML meta data is data **about** the HTML document. |

The HTML <title> Element

The HTML **<title>** element is meta data. It defines the HTML document's title.

The title will not be displayed in the document, but might be displayed in the browser tab.

The HTML <meta> Element

The HTML **<meta>** element is also meta data.

It can be used to define the character set, and other information about the HTML document.

More Meta Elements

In the chapter about HTML styles you discover more meta elements:

The HTML **<style>** element is used to define internal CSS style sheets.

The HTML **<link>** element is used to define external CSS style sheets.

HTML Tip - How to View HTML Source

Have you ever seen a Web page and wondered "Hey! How did they do that?"

To find out, right-click in the page and select "View Page Source" (in Chrome) or "View Source" (in IE), or similar in another browser. This will open a window containing the HTML code of the page.

Test Yourself with Exercises!

[**Exercise 1 »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/exercise.asp?filename=exercise_headings1)   [**Exercise 2 »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/exercise.asp?filename=exercise_headings2)   [**Exercise 3 »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/exercise.asp?filename=exercise_headings3)   [**Exercise 4 »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/exercise.asp?filename=exercise_headings4)

HTML Tag Reference

W3Schools' tag reference contains additional information about these tags and their attributes.

You will learn more about HTML tags and attributes in the next chapters of this tutorial.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Tag** | **Description** |
| [<html>](http://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_html.asp) | Defines an HTML document |
| [<body>](http://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_body.asp) | Defines the document's body |

HTML Paragraphs

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HTML documents are divided into paragraphs.

HTML Paragraphs

The HTML **<p>** element defines a **paragraph**.

Example

<p>This is a paragraph</p>  
<p>This is another paragraph</p>

[**Try it Yourself »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_paragraphs1)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Note** | Browsers automatically add an empty line before and after a paragraph. |

HTML Display

You cannot be sure how HTML will be displayed.

Large or small screens, and resized windows will create different results.

With HTML, you cannot change the output by adding extra spaces or extra lines in your HTML code.

The browser will remove extra spaces and extra lines when the page is displayed.

Any number of spaces, and any number of new lines, count as **only one space**.

Example

<p>  
This paragraph  
contains a lot of lines  
in the source code,  
but the browser   
ignores it.  
</p>  
  
<p>  
This paragraph  
contains         a lot of spaces  
in the source         code,  
but the        browser   
ignores it.  
</p>

[**Try it Yourself »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_paragraphs2)

Don't Forget the End Tag

Most browsers will display HTML correctly even if you forget the end tag:

Example

<p>This is a paragraph  
<p>This is another paragraph

[**Try it Yourself »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_paragraphs0)

The example above will work in most browsers, but do not rely on it.

Forgetting the end tag can produce unexpected results or errors.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Note** | Stricter versions of HTML, like XHTML, do not allow you to skip the end tag. |

HTML Line Breaks

The HTML **<br>** element defines a **line break**.

Use <br> if you want a line break (a new line) without starting a new paragraph:

Example

<p>This is<br>a para<br>graph with line breaks</p>

[**Try it Yourself »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_paragraphs)

The <br> element is an empty HTML element. It has no end tag.

The Poem Problem

Example

<p>This poem will display as one line:</p>  
<p>  
  My Bonnie lies over the ocean.  
  
  My Bonnie lies over the sea.  
  
  My Bonnie lies over the ocean.  
  
  Oh, bring back my Bonnie to me.  
</p>

[**Try it Yourself »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_poem)

The HTML <pre> Element

The HTML <pre> element defines preformatted text.

The text inside a <pre> element is displayed in a fixed-width font (usually Courier), and it preserves both spaces and line breaks:

Example

<pre>  
  My Bonnie lies over the ocean.  
  
  My Bonnie lies over the sea.  
  
  My Bonnie lies over the ocean.  
  
  Oh, bring back my Bonnie to me.  
</pre>

[**Try it Yourself »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_pre)

Test Yourself with Exercises!

[**Exercise 1 »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/exercise.asp?filename=exercise_paragraphs)    [**Exercise 2 »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/exercise.asp?filename=exercise_paragraphs1)    [**Exercise 3 »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/exercise.asp?filename=exercise_paragraphs2)    [**Exercise 4 »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/exercise.asp?filename=exercise_paragraphs3)

HTML Tag Reference

W3Schools' tag reference contains additional information about HTML elements and their attributes.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Tag** | **Description** |
| [<p>](http://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_p.asp) | Defines a paragraph |
| [<br>](http://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_br.asp) | Inserts a single line break |
| [<pre>](http://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_pre.asp) | Defines pre-formatted text |

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HTML Styles

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I am Red

I am Blue

[**Try it Yourself »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_styles_intro)

HTML Styling

Every HTML element has a **default style** (background color is white and text color is black).

Changing the default style of an HTML element, can be done with the **style attribute**.

This example changes the default background color from white to lightgrey:

Example

<body style="background-color:lightgrey">  
  
<h1>This is a heading</h1>  
<p>This is a paragraph.</p>  
  
</body>

[**Try it Yourself »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_styles_background-color)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Note** | The bgcolor attribute, supported in older versions of HTML, is not valid in HTML5. |

The HTML Style Attribute

The HTML style attribute has the following **syntax**:

style="*property*:*value*"

The ***property*** is a CSS property. The ***value*** is a CSS value.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Note** | You will learn more about CSS later in this tutorial. |

HTML Text Color

The **color** property defines the text color to be used for an HTML element:

Example

<h1 style="color:blue">This is a heading</h1>  
<p style="color:red">This is a paragraph.</p>

[**Try it Yourself »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_styles_color)

HTML Fonts

The **font-family** property defines the font to be used for an HTML element:

Example

<h1 style="font-family:verdana">This is a heading</h1>  
<p style="font-family:courier">This is a paragraph.</p>

[**Try it Yourself »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_styles_font-family)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Note** | The <font> tag, supported in older versions of HTML, is not valid in HTML5. |

HTML Text Size

The **font-size** property defines the text size to be used for an HTML element:

Example

<h1 style="font-size:300%">This is a heading</h1>  
<p style="font-size:160%">This is a paragraph.</p>

[**Try it Yourself »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_styles_font-size)

HTML Text Alignment

The **text-align** property defines the horizontal text alignment for an HTML element:

Example

<h1 style="text-align:center">Centered Heading</h1>  
<p>This is a paragraph.</p>

[**Try it Yourself »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_styles_text-align)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Note** | The <center> tag, supported in older versions of HTML, is not valid in HTML5. |

Chapter Summary

* Use the **style** attribute for styling HTML elements
* Use **background-color** for background color
* Use **color** for text colors
* Use **font-family** for text fonts
* Use **font-size** for text sizes
* Use **text-align** for text alignment

Test Yourself with Exercises!

[**Exercise 1 »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/exercise.asp?filename=exercise_styles1)  [**Exercise 2 »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/exercise.asp?filename=exercise_styles2)  [**Exercise 3 »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/exercise.asp?filename=exercise_styles3)  [**Exercise 4 »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/exercise.asp?filename=exercise_styles4)  [**Exercise 5 »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/exercise.asp?filename=exercise_styles5)  [**Exercise 6 »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/exercise.asp?filename=exercise_styles6)

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HTML Text Formatting Elements

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Text Formatting

**This text is bold**  
  
*This text is italic*  
  
This is superscript

HTML Formatting Elements

In the previous chapter, you learned about HTML **styling**, using the HTML **style attribute**.

HTML also defines special **elements**, for defining text with a special **meaning**.

HTML uses elements like <b> and <i> for formatting output, like **bold** or *italic* text.

Formatting elements were designed to display special **types of text**:

* Bold text
* Important text
* Italic text
* Emphasized text
* Marked text
* Small text
* Deleted text
* Inserted text
* Subscripts
* Superscripts

HTML **Bold** and **Strong** Formatting

The HTML **<b>** element defines **bold** text, without any extra importance.

Example

<p>This text is normal.</p>  
  
<p><b>This text is bold</b>.</p>

[**Try it Yourself »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_formatting_b)

The HTML **<strong>** element defines **strong** text, with added semantic "strong" importance.

Example

<p>This text is normal.</p>  
  
<p><strong>This text is strong</strong>.</p>

[**Try it Yourself »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_formatting_strong)

HTML *Italic* and *Emphasized* Formatting

The HTML **<i>** element defines *italic* text, without any extra importance.

Example

<p>This text is normal.</p>  
  
<p><i>This text is italic</i>.</p>

[**Try it Yourself »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_formatting_i)

The HTML **<em>** element defines *emphasized* text, with added semantic importance.

Example

<p>This text is normal.</p>  
  
<p><em>This text is emphasized</em>.</p>

[**Try it Yourself »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_formatting_em)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Note** | Browsers display <strong> as <b>, and <em> as <i>.  However, there is a difference in the meaning of these tags:< b> and <i> defines bold and italic text, but< strong> and <em> means that the text is "important". |

HTML Small Formatting

The HTML **<small>** element defines **small** text:

Example

<h2>HTML <small>Small</small> Formatting</h2>

[**Try it Yourself »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_formatting_small)

HTML Marked Formatting

The HTML **<mark>** element defines **marked** or highlighted text:

Example

<h2>HTML <mark>Marked</mark> Formatting</h2>

[**Try it Yourself »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_formatting_mark)

HTML Formatting

The HTML **<del>** element defines **deleted** (removed) of text.

Example

<p>My favorite color is <del>blue</del> red.</p>

[**Try it Yourself »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_formatting_del)

HTML Inserted Formatting

The HTML **<ins>** element defines **inserted** (added) text.

Example

<p>My favorite <ins>color</ins> is red.</p>

[**Try it Yourself »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_formatting_ins)

HTML Subscript Formatting

The HTML **<sub>** element defines **subscripted** text.

Example

<p>This is <sub>subscripted</sub> text.</p>

[**Try it Yourself »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_formatting_sub)

HTML Superscript Formatting

The HTML **<sup>** element defines **superscripted** text.

Example

<p>This is <sup>superscripted</sup> text.</p>

[**Try it Yourself »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_formatting_sup)

Test Yourself with Exercises!

[**Exercise 1 »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/exercise.asp?filename=exercise_formatting1)   [**Exercise 2 »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/exercise.asp?filename=exercise_formatting2)   [**Exercise 3 »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/exercise.asp?filename=exercise_formatting3)   [**Exercise 4 »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/exercise.asp?filename=exercise_formatting4)   [**Exercise 5 »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/exercise.asp?filename=exercise_formatting5)

HTML Text Formatting Elements

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Tag** | **Description** |
| [<b>](http://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_b.asp) | Defines bold text |
| [<em>](http://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_em.asp) | Defines emphasized text |
| [<i>](http://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_i.asp) | Defines italic text |
| [<small>](http://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_small.asp) | Defines smaller text |
| [<strong>](http://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_strong.asp) | Defines important text |
| [<sub>](http://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_sub.asp) | Defines subscripted text |
| [<sup>](http://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_sup.asp) | Defines superscripted text |
| [<ins>](http://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_ins.asp) | Defines inserted text |
| [<del>](http://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_del.asp) | Defines deleted text |
| [<mark>](http://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_mark.asp) | Defines marked/highlighted text |

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|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |

HTML Quotation and Citation Elements

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Quotation

Here is a quote from WWF's website:

For 50 years, WWF has been protecting the future of nature. The world's leading conservation organization, WWF works in 100 countries and is supported by 1.2 million members in the United States and close to 5 million globally.

HTML <q> for Short Quotations

The HTML **<q>** element defines a **short quotation**.

Browsers usually insert **quotation marks** around the <q> element.

Example

<p>WWF's goal is to: <q>Build a future where people live in harmony with nature.</q></p>

[**Try it Yourself »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_formatting_q)

HTML <blockquote> for Long Quotations

The HTML **<blockquote>** element defines a quoted section.

Browsers usually **indent** <blockquote> elements.

Example

<p>Here is a quote from WWF's website:</p>  
<blockquote cite="http://www.worldwildlife.org/who/index.html">  
For 50 years, WWF has been protecting the future of nature.  
The world's leading conservation organization,  
WWF works in 100 countries and is supported by  
1.2 million members in the United States and  
close to 5 million globally.  
</blockquote>

[**Try it Yourself »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_formatting_blockquote)

HTML <abbr> for Abbreviations

The HTML **<abbr>** element defines an **abbreviation** or an acronym.

Marking abbreviations can give useful information to browsers, translation systems and search-engines.

Example

<p>The <abbr title="World Health Organization">WHO</abbr> was founded in 1948.</p>

[**Try it Yourself »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_formatting_abbr)

HTML <address> for Contact Information

The HTML **<address>** element defines contact information (author/owner) of a document or article.

The element is usually displayed in **italic**. Most browsers will add a line break before and after the element.

Example

<address>  
Written by Jon Doe.<br>   
Visit us at:<br>  
Example.com<br>  
Box 564, Disneyland<br>  
USA  
</address>

[**Try it Yourself »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_formatting_address)

HTML <cite> for Work Title

The HTML **<cite>** element defines the **title of a work**.

Browsers usually displays <cite> elements in *italic*.

Example

<p><cite>The Scream</cite> by Edward Munch. Painted in 1893.</p>

[**Try it Yourself »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_formatting_cite)

HTML <bdo> for Bi-Directional Override

The HTML **<bdo>** element defines **bi-directional override**.

If your browser supports bdo, this text will be written from right to left:

Example

<bdo dir="rtl">This text will be written from right to left</bdo>

[**Try it Yourself »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_formatting_bdo)

Test Yourself with Exercises!

[**Exercise 1 »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/exercise.asp?filename=exercise_quotations1)   [**Exercise 2 »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/exercise.asp?filename=exercise_quotations2)   [**Exercise 3 »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/exercise.asp?filename=exercise_quotations3)   [**Exercise 4 »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/exercise.asp?filename=exercise_quotations4)

HTML Quotations, Citations, and Definition Elements

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Tag** | **Description** |
| [<abbr>](http://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_abbr.asp) | Defines an abbreviation or acronym |
| [<address>](http://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_address.asp) | Defines contact information for the author/owner of a document |
| [<bdo>](http://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_bdo.asp) | Defines the text direction |
| [<blockquote>](http://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_blockquote.asp) | Defines a section that is quoted from another source |
| [<dfn>](http://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_dfn.asp) | Defines the definition of a term or an abbreviation. |
| [<q>](http://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_q.asp) | Defines a short inline quotation |
| [<cite>](http://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_cite.asp) | Defines the title of a work |

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|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |

HTML Computer Code Elements

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Computer Code

var person = {  
    firstName:"John",  
    lastName:"Doe",  
    age:50,  
    eyeColor:"blue"  
}

HTML Computer Code Formatting

Normally, HTML uses **variable** letter size, and variable letter spacing.

This is not wanted when displaying examples of **computer code**.

The **<kbd>**, **<samp>**, and **<code>** elements all support **fixed** letter size and spacing.

HTML Keyboard Formatting

The HTML **<kbd>** element defines **keyboard input**:

Example

<p>To open a file, select:</p>  
  
<p><kbd>File | Open...</kbd></p>

[**Try it Yourself »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_formatting_kbd)

HTML Sample Formatting

The HTML **<samp>** element defines a **computer output**:

Example

<samp>  
demo.example.com login: Apr 12 09:10:17  
Linux 2.6.10-grsec+gg3+e+fhs6b+nfs+gr0501+++p3+c4a+gr2b-reslog-v6.189  
</samp>

[**Try it Yourself »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_formatting_samp)

HTML Code Formatting

The HTML **<code>** element defines **programming code**:

Example

<code>  
var person = { firstName:"John", lastName:"Doe", age:50, eyeColor:"blue" }  
</code>

[**Try it Yourself »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_formatting_code)

The <code> element does **not** preserve extra **whitespace** and **line-breaks**:

 Example

<p>Coding Example:</p>  
  
<code>  
var person = {  
    firstName:"John",  
    lastName:"Doe",  
    age:50,  
    eyeColor:"blue"  
}  
</code>

[**Try it Yourself »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_formatting_codelines)

To fix this, you must wrap the code in a <pre> element:

 Example

<p>Coding Example:</p>  
  
<code>  
<pre>  
var person = {  
    firstName:"John",  
    lastName:"Doe",  
    age:50,  
    eyeColor:"blue"  
}  
</pre>  
</code>

[**Try it Yourself »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_formatting_codepre)

HTML *Variable* Formatting

The HTML **<var>** element defines a **mathematical variable**:

Example

<p>Einstein wrote:</p>  
  
<p><var>E = m c<sup>2</sup></var></p>

[**Try it Yourself »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_formatting_var)

HTML Computer Code Elements

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Tag** | **Description** |
| [<code>](http://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_code.asp) | Defines programming code |
| [<kbd>](http://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_kbd.asp) | Defines keyboard input |
| [<samp>](http://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_samp.asp) | Defines computer output |
| [<var>](http://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_var.asp) | Defines a mathematical variable |
| [<pre>](http://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_pre.asp) | Defines preformatted text |

HTML Comments

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Comment tags <!-- and --> are used to insert comments in HTML.

HTML Comment Tags

You can add comments to your HTML source by using the following syntax:

Example

<!-- Write your comments here -->

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Note** | **Note:** There is an exclamation point (!) in the opening tag, but not in the closing tag. |

Comments are not displayed by the browser, but they can help document your HTML.

With comments you can place notifications and reminders in your HTML:

Example

<!-- This is a comment -->  
  
<p>This is a paragraph.</p>  
  
<!-- Remember to add more information here -->

[**Try it Yourself »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_comment)

Comments are also great for debugging HTML, because you can comment out HTML lines of code, one at a time, to search for errors:

Example

<!-- Do not display this at the moment  
< img border="0" src="pic\_mountain.jpg" alt="Mountain">  
-->

[**Try it Yourself »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_comment_out)

Conditional Comments

You might stumble upon conditional comments in HTML:

<!--[if IE 8]>  
    .... some HTML here ....  
<![endif]-->

Conditional comments defines HTML tags to be executed by Internet Explorer only.

Software Program Tags

HTML comments tags can also be generated by various HTML software programs.

For example <!--webbot bot--> tags wrapped inside HTML comments by FrontPage and Expression Web.

As a rule, let these tags stay, to help support the software that created them.

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HTML Styles - CSS

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CSS = Styles and Colors

Manipulate Text

Colors,  Boxes

Example

<!DOCTYPE html>  
<html>  
<head>  
<style>  
body {background-color:lightgray}  
h1   {color:blue}  
p    {color:green}  
</style>  
</head>  
<body>  
  
<h1>This is a heading</h1>  
<p>This is a paragraph.</p>  
  
</body>  
</html>

[**Try it Yourself »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_css_internal)

Styling HTML with CSS

CSS stands for **C**ascading **S**tyle **S**heets

Styling can be added to HTML elements in 3 ways:

* Inline - using a **style attribute** in HTML elements
* Internal - using a **<style> element** in the HTML <head> section
* External - using one or more **external CSS files**

The most common way to add styling, is to keep the styles in separate CSS files. But, in this tutorial, we use internal styling, because it is easier to demonstrate, and easier for you to try it yourself.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Note** | You can learn much more about CSS in our [CSS Tutorial](http://www.w3schools.com/css/default.asp). |

CSS Syntax

CSS styling has the following syntax:

*element* { *property*:*value; property:value }*

The **element** is an HTML element name. The ***property*** is a CSS property. The ***value*** is a CSS value.

Multiple styles are separated with semicolon.

Inline Styling (Inline CSS)

**Inline styling** is useful for applying a unique style to a single HTML element:

Inline styling uses the **style attribute**.

This inline styling changes the text color of a single heading:

Example

<h1 style="color:blue">This is a Blue Heading</h1>

[**Try it Yourself »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_css_inline)

Internal Styling (Internal CSS)

An internal style sheet can be used to define a common style for all HTML elements on a page.

**Internal styling** is defined in the **<head>** section of an HTML page, using a **<style>** element:

Example

<!DOCTYPE html>  
<html>  
<head>  
<style>  
body {background-color:lightgrey}  
h1   {color:blue}  
p    {color:green}  
</style>  
</head>  
<body>  
  
<h1>This is a heading</h1>  
<p>This is a paragraph.</p>  
  
</body>  
</html>

[**Try it Yourself »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_css_internal)

External Styling (External CSS)

External style sheet are ideal when the style is applied to many pages.

With external style sheets, you can change the look of an entire web site by changing one file.

**External styles** are defined in an external CSS file, and then linked to in the **<head>** section of an HTML page:

Example

<!DOCTYPE html>  
<html>  
<head>  
  <link rel="stylesheet" href="styles.css">  
</head>  
<body>  
  
<h1>This is a heading</h1>  
<p>This is a paragraph.</p>  
  
</body>  
</html>

[**Try it Yourself »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_css_external)

CSS Fonts

The CSS **color** property defines the text color to be used for the HTML element.

The CSS **font-family** property defines the font to be used for the HTML element.

The CSS **font-size** property defines the text size to be used for the HTML element.

Example

<!DOCTYPE html>  
<html>  
<head>  
<style>  
h1 {  
    color:blue;  
    font-family:verdana;  
    font-size:300%;  
}  
p  {  
    color:red;  
    font-family:courier;  
    font-size:160%;  
}  
</style>  
</head>  
<body>  
  
<h1>This is a heading</h1>  
<p>This is a paragraph.</p>  
  
</body>  
</html>

[**Try it Yourself »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_css_fonts)

The CSS Box Model

Every HTML element has a box around it, even if you cannot see it.

The CSS **border** property defines a visible border around an HTML element:

Example

p {  
    border:1px solid black;  
}

[**Try it Yourself »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_css_borders)

The CSS **padding** property defines a padding (space) inside the border:

Example

p {  
    border:1px solid black;  
    padding:10px;  
}

[**Try it Yourself »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_css_padding)

The CSS **margin** property defines a margin (space) outside the border:

Example

p {  
    border:1px solid black;  
    padding:10px;  
    margin:30px;  
}

[**Try it Yourself »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_css_margin)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Note** | The CSS examples above use px to define sizes in pixels. |

The id Attribute

All the examples above use CSS to style HTML elements in a general way.

To define a special style for one special element, first add an id attribute to the element:

Example

<p id="p01">I am different</p>

then define a different style for the (identified) element:

Example

p#p01 {  
    color:blue;  
}

[**Try it Yourself »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_css_id)

The class Attribute

To define a style for a special type (class) of elements, add a class attribute to the element:

Example

<p class="error">I am different</p>

Now you can define a different style for all elements with the specified class:

Example

p.error {  
    color:red;  
}

[**Try it Yourself »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_css_class)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Note** | Use **id** to address **single** elements. Use **class** to address **groups** of elements. |

Deprecated Tags and Attributes in HTML5

In older HTML versions, several tags and attributes were used to style documents.

These tags and attributes are not supported in HTML5!

Avoid using the <font>, <center>, and <strike> elements.

Avoid using the color and bgcolor attributes.

Chapter Summary

* Use the HTML **style** attribute for inline styling
* Use the HTML **<style>** element to define internal CSS
* Use the HTML **<link>** element to refer to an external CSS file
* Use the HTML **<head>** element to store <style> and <link> elements
* Use the CSS **color** property for text colors
* Use the CSS **font-family** property for text fonts
* Use the CSS **font-size** property for text sizes
* Use the CSS **border** property for visible element borders
* Use the CSS **padding** property for space inside the border
* Use the CSS **margin** property for space outside the border

Test Yourself with Exercises!

[**Exercise 1 »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/exercise.asp?filename=exercise_css1)  [**Exercise 2 »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/exercise.asp?filename=exercise_css2)  [**Exercise 3 »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/exercise.asp?filename=exercise_css3)  [**Exercise 4 »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/exercise.asp?filename=exercise_css4)  [**Exercise 5 »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/exercise.asp?filename=exercise_css5)  [**Exercise 6 »**](http://www.w3schools.com/html/exercise.asp?filename=exercise_css6)

HTML Style Tags

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Tag** | **Description** |
| [<style>](http://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_style.asp) | Defines style information for a document |
| [<link>](http://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_link.asp) | Defines a link between a document and an external resource |

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| --- | --- |
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