

HTML / Tables

Tables



Tables are used in HTML documents (web pages) to present tabular data.



Using Tables

- A table is defined using the element, and contains a number of table cells (, for "table data") which are organized into table rows (). The markup (HTML code) for a table is always based on rows, never columns.
- Table cells which act as column headers or row headers should use the (table header)
- Table cells can be merged using the colspan and rowspan attributes.
- Tables can be broken into sections using the following elements:
 - <thead> Table header
 - − Table body
 - <tfoot> Table footer
- A caption can be added to a table using the <caption> element.
- You can use <col> and <colgroup> to define table columns for styling. However, there are a number of limitations with this practice.

Table Code Sample: Simple Table

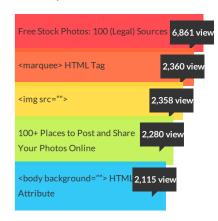


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Bob	Yellow
Michelle	Purple

Table Code Sample: Complex Table

```
<caption>A complex table/caption>
<thead>
 Invoice #123456789
 >14 January 2025
 <strong>Pay to:</strong><br>
 Acme Billing Co.<br>
 123 Main St.<br>
 Cityville, NA 12345
 <strong>Customer:</strong><br>
 John Smith<br>
  321 Willow Way<br>
  Southeast Northwestershire, MA 54321
 </thead>
Name / Description
 Qty.
 @
 Cost
 Paperclips
 1000
 0.01
 10.00
 Staples (box)
 100
 1.00
 100.00
 <tfoot>
 Subtotal
 110.00
 Tax
  8% 
 8.80
 Grand Total
 $ 118.80
 </tfoot>
```

Invoice #123456789			14 January 2025
Pay to:		Customer:	
Acme Billing Co. 123 Main St. Cityville, NA 12345		John Smith 321 Willow Way	
		Name / Description	Qty.
Paperclips	1000	0.01	10.00
Staples (box)	100	1.00	100.00
Subtotal			110.00
Тах		8%	8.80
Grand Total		\$ 118.80	

About Table-Based Layout

It was common in the early days of the web to use tables as a layout device. Before the advent of modern standards-based browsers, this was the easiest way to make sure that page elements were arranged properly on the screen.

This design pattern is now considered *very bad*. It is bad for the user experience, bad for SEO, and bad for developers who have to maintain pages.

You should not use table-based *layout* under any circumstances. Instead, check out our CSS Tutorials to start learning about modern web site layout.

However, that doesn't mean you should avoid tables — tables should be used whenever you need to present information in a tabular format.



Adam Wood

 $\label{prop:continuous} A dam\ is\ a\ technical\ writer\ who\ specializes\ in\ developer\ documentation\ and\ tutorials.$

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Related Elements

Element Name	Attributes	Notes
<tfoot> HTML Tag</tfoot>		The <tfoot> element identifies one or more elements as containing summary contents of a table's columns. The <tfoot> element must be the direct descendant of a element. In HTML5, <tfoot> can be placed either before or after and elements, but must appear after any</tfoot></tfoot></tfoot>

		<caption>, <colgroup>, and <thead> elements.</thead></colgroup></caption>
HTML Tag		The element must be a direct descendant of a element and is used to identify elements that comprise the body of the table. The element should always come after a <thead> element and may come before or after a <tfoot> element.</tfoot></thead>
HTML Tag		The classes to group together cor values into a single row of table heading or data values. The classes to a direct child of a element or nested within a parent <thead>, <tfoot>, or element.</tfoot></thead>
<thead> HTML Tag</thead>		The <thead> element is used to identify one or more rows of a table that contain column labels rather than table data.</thead>
caption	align valign	The <caption> element is used to add a caption to an HTML table. A <caption> must appear in an HTML document as the first descendant of a parent , but it may be positioned visually at the bottom of the table with CSS.</caption></caption>
col	span align bgcolor width	The <col/> element, typically implemented as a child element of a parent <colgroup>, can be used to target a column in an HTML table.</colgroup>
colgroup	align span wdith	The <colgroup> element is used a parent container for one or</colgroup>

	more <col/> elements which are used to target columns in an HTML table.
	3.2.3

Tutorials and Resources

Tables Tutorial Styling Tables



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