

Tables



Tables are used in [HTML](#) documents (web pages) to present *tabular data*.

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Using Tables

- A table is defined using the `<table>` element, and contains a number of [table cells](#) (`<td>`, for “table data”) which are organized into [table rows](#) (`<tr>`). 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 `<th>` (table header) element.
- Table cells can be merged using the `colspan` and `rowspan` attributes.
- Tables can be broken into sections using the following elements:
 - `<thead>` – Table header
 - `<tbody>` – 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

```
<table>
<tr>
  <th>Name</th>
  <th>Favorite Color</th>
</tr>
<tr>
  <td>Bob</td>
  <td>Yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
  <td>Michelle</td>
  <td>Purple</td>
</tr>
</table>
```

Name	Favorite Color

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- Free Stock Photos: 100 (Legal) Sources 6,861 view
- `<marquee>` HTML Tag 2,360 view
- `` 2,358 view
- 100+ Places to Post and Share Your Photos Online 2,280 view
- `<body background="">` HTML Attribute 2,115 view

Bob	Yellow
Michelle	Purple

Table Code Sample: Complex Table

```
<table>
  <caption>A complex table</caption>
  <thead>
    <tr>
      <th colspan="3">Invoice #123456789</th>
      <th>14 January 2025</th>
    </tr>
    <tr>
      <td colspan="2">
        <strong>Pay to:</strong><br>
        Acme Billing Co.<br>
        123 Main St.<br>
        Cityville, NA 12345
      </td>
      <td colspan="2">
        <strong>Customer:</strong><br>
        John Smith<br>
        321 Willow Way<br>
        Southeast Northwesternshire, MA 54321
      </td>
    </tr>
  </thead>
  <tbody>
    <tr>
      <th>Name / Description</th>
      <th>Qty.</th>
      <th>@</th>
      <th>Cost</th>
    </tr>
    <tr>
      <td>Paperclips</td>
      <td>1000</td>
      <td>0.01</td>
      <td>10.00</td>
    </tr>
    <tr>
      <td>Staples (box)</td>
      <td>100</td>
      <td>1.00</td>
      <td>100.00</td>
    </tr>
  </tbody>
  <tfoot>
    <tr>
      <th colspan="3">Subtotal</th>
      <td> 110.00</td>
    </tr>
    <tr>
      <th colspan="2">Tax</th>
      <td> 8% </td>
      <td>8.80</td>
    </tr>
    <tr>
      <th colspan="3">Grand Total</th>
      <td>$ 118.80</td>
    </tr>
  </tfoot>
</table>
```

A complex table

Invoice #123456789		14 January 2025	
Pay to: Acme Billing Co. 123 Main St. Cityville, NA 12345		Customer: John Smith 321 Willow Way Southeast Northwesternshire, MA 54321	
Name / Description	Qty.	@	Cost
Paperclips	1000	0.01	10.00
Staples (box)	100	1.00	100.00
Subtotal			110.00
Tax		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

Adam is a technical writer who specializes in developer documentation and tutorials.

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Related Elements

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

		<caption>, <colgroup>, and <thead> elements.
<tbody> HTML Tag		The <tbody> element must be a direct descendant of a <table> element and is used to identify <tr> elements that comprise the body of the table. The <tbody> element should always come after a <thead> element and may come before or after a <tfoot> element.
<tr> HTML Tag	<tr align=""> <tr valign=""> <tr bgcolor=""> <tr background=""> <tr bordercolor="">	The <tr> element is used to group together <th> or <td> values into a single row of table heading or data values. The <tr> element may be a direct child of a <table> element or nested within a parent <thead>, <tfoot>, or <tbody> element.
<thead> HTML Tag		The <thead> element is used to identify one or more rows of a table that contain column labels rather than table data.
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 <table>, but it may be positioned visually at the bottom of the table with CSS.
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	align span width	The <colgroup> element is used a parent container for one or

		more <col> elements which are used to target columns in an HTML table.
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Tutorials and Resources

[Tables Tutorial](#)
[Styling Tables](#)



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