**HTML tables** are **used** for displaying data that make sense in spreadsheet software. They consist of rows and columns and are often **used** on websites for the effective displaying of tabular data.

Designing a professional looking **web site** involves much more than simply displaying text between your body tags. In order to **organize** your **page**, you must **use tables**. A **table is** an **HTML** element, also referred to as a "tag," and **is used** to display your **web page** content in an **organized** fashion. Your web page can be set up in columns and rows, you can display your table cells with or without a border, and you can even have a color or image patterned background.

When you begin designing your web page, you may want to consider placing all of your page content within a table. This will enable you to adjust your table's cellspacing to keep your text from displaying too close to the left border of your page. The higher the cellspacing value, the further away from the left border your text will be displayed. In addition, tables will enable you to display your page content in rows and columns rather than one big block of  
text.

Cons: **Tables** shouldn't be used for **page layouts** because they are: Slow **to** render as the browser needs **to** download most - if not all - of the **table to** render it properly. They require more **HTML** than non-**table layouts** which means slower loading and rendering, as well as an increased bandwidth **usage**.

* Slow to render as the browser needs to download most - if not all - of the table to render it properly
* They require more HTML than non-table layouts which means slower loading and rendering, as well as an increased bandwidth usage
* They can be a nightmare to maintain as they can quickly get complex
* They can break text copying
* They negatively affect screen readers and may make your content inaccessible to some users
* They are not as flexible as using proper semantic markup
* They were never intended to be used for page layouts
* Making tables into a responsive layout is very difficult to control