

# HTML Important Tags — Cheat Sheet

A concise, practical reference

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# Document & Metadata

## **<!DOCTYPE html>**

Document type declaration for HTML5.

Example:

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
```

## **<html>**

Root element that wraps the entire page.

Example:

```
<html lang="en">...</html>
```

## **<head>**

Container for metadata and resources.

Example:

```
<head>...</head>
```

## **<title>**

Page title shown in browser/tab.

Example:

```
<title>My Page</title>
```

## **<meta>**

Metadata: charset, viewport, SEO, etc.

Example:

```
<meta charset="utf-8">
```

## **<link>**

External resources such as CSS.

Example:

```
<link rel="stylesheet" href="styles.css">
```

## **<style>**

Internal CSS styles.

Example:

```
<style>body{font-family:sans-serif}</style>
```

## **<script>**

Client-side scripts (JS).

Example:

```
<script src="app.js" defer></script>
```

## **<base>**

Sets base URL for relative links.

Example:

```
<base href="https://example.com/">
```

## **<noscript>**

Fallback content if JS is disabled.

Example:

```
<noscript>Please enable JavaScript</noscript>
```

## **Document & Metadata (cont.)**

# Page Structure & Landmarks (Semantic HTML5)

## **<body>**

Document body content.

Example:

```
<body>...</body>
```

## **<header>**

Intro, branding, nav for a section/page.

Example:

```
<header><h1>Site</h1></header>
```

## **<nav>**

Primary navigation links.

Example:

```
<nav><a href="/">Home</a></nav>
```

## **<main>**

Main content (one per page).

Example:

```
<main>...</main>
```

## **<section>**

Thematic grouping of content.

Example:

```
<section><h2>Features</h2>...</section>
```

## **<article>**

Self-contained composition (blog post).

Example:

```
<article><h2>Post</h2></article>
```

## **<aside>**

Sidebar or tangential content.

Example:

```
<aside>Related links</aside>
```

## **<footer>**

Footer for a section/page.

Example:

```
<footer>© 2025</footer>
```

## **<div>**

Generic block container.

Example:

```
<div class="card">...</div>
```

## **<span>**

Generic inline container.

Example:

```
<span class="tag">New</span>
```

**Page Structure & Landmarks (Semantic HTML5) (cont.)**

# Headings & Text

## **<h1>...<h6>**

Headings (H1 highest).

Example:

```
<h1>Title</h1>
```

## **<p>**

Paragraph of text.

Example:

```
<p>Hello world.</p>
```

## **<br>**

Line break.

Example:

```
Line 1<br>Line 2
```

## **<hr>**

Thematic break (horizontal rule).

Example:

```
<hr>
```

## **<strong>**

Strong importance (typically bold).

Example:

```
<strong>Important</strong>
```

## **<em>**

Emphasis (typically italic).

Example:

```
<em>Note</em>
```

## **<b>**

Stylistic bold (no extra importance).

Example:

```
<b>Bold</b>
```

## **<i>**

Stylistic italic (alternate voice).

Example:

```
<i>Italic</i>
```

## **<u>**

Underline (annotation).

Example:

```
<u>Underlined</u>
```

## **<small>**

Side comments, fine print.

Example:

```
<small>Terms apply</small>
```

## Headings & Text (cont.)

### **<mark>**

Highlight text.

Example:

```
<mark>Highlight</mark>
```

### **<sub> / <sup>**

Subscript / superscript.

Example:

```
H<sub>2</sub>O, 10<sup>2</sup>
```

### **<abbr>**

Abbreviation with expansion.

Example:

```
<abbr title="HyperText Markup Language">HTML</abbr>
```

### **<cite>**

Title of a work.

Example:

```
<cite>Hamlet</cite>
```

### **<q>**

Inline quotation.

Example:

```
<q>Quote</q>
```

### **<blockquote>**

Block quotation.

Example:

```
<blockquote>Long quote...</blockquote>
```

### **<time>**

Machine-readable time/date.

Example:

```
<time datetime="2025-08-14">Aug 14, 2025</time>
```

### **<code>**

Inline code fragment.

Example:

```
<code>let x = 1;</code>
```

### **<pre>**

Preformatted text / code blocks.

Example:

```
<pre>{  "json": true }</pre>
```

### **<kbd>**

User input (keyboard).

Example:

```
<kbd>Ctrl</kbd> + <kbd>C</kbd>
```

## Headings & Text (cont.)

### **<samp>**

Sample output.

Example:

```
<samp>OK</samp>
```

### **<var>**

Variable in mathematical expressions.

Example:

```
<var>x</var> = 2
```

### **<data>**

Associate content with a machine-readable value.

Example:

```
<data value="42">forty-two</data>
```

### **<wbr>**

Word break opportunity.

Example:

```
super<wbr>califragilistic
```

### **<bdi> / <bdo>**

Bi-directional isolation/override.

Example:

```
<bdo dir="rtl">abc</bdo>
```

### **<address>**

Contact info for author/owner.

Example:

```
<address>hello@example.com</address>
```

### **<s>**

Strikethrough (no longer accurate).

Example:

```
<s>Old price</s>
```

### **<del> / <ins>**

Deletions / insertions.

Example:

```
<del>red</del><ins>blue</ins>
```



# Lists

## **<ul>**

Unordered list.

Example:

```
<ul><li>A</li><li>B</li></ul>
```

## **<ol>**

Ordered list.

Example:

```
<ol><li>First</li><li>Second</li></ol>
```

## **<li>**

List item.

Example:

```
<li>Item</li>
```

## **<dl>**

Description list.

Example:

```
<dl><dt>Term</dt><dd>Definition</dd></dl>
```

## **<dt>**

Description term.

Example:

```
<dt>HTML</dt>
```

## **<dd>**

Description definition.

Example:

```
<dd>Markup language</dd>
```

# Links & Media

## **<a>**

Hyperlink/anchor.

Example:

```
<a href="/about">About</a>
```

## **<img>**

Image.

Example:

```

```

## **<figure>**

Self-contained content (image/code).

Example:

```
<figure>...</figure>
```

## **<figcaption>**

Caption for figure.

Example:

```
<figcaption>Caption</figcaption>
```

## **<picture>**

Responsive images with sources.

Example:

```
<picture><source media="(min-width:800px)" srcset="big.jpg"></picture>
```

## **<source>**

Media source (audio/video/picture).

Example:

```
<source src="file.mp4" type="video/mp4">
```

## **<audio>**

Embeds audio content.

Example:

```
<audio controls src="song.mp3"></audio>
```

## **<video>**

Embeds video content.

Example:

```
<video controls src="clip.mp4"></video>
```

## **<track>**

Timed text tracks for media.

Example:

```
<track kind="subtitles" src="sub.vtt" srclang="en">
```

## **<svg>**

Vector graphics.

Example:

```
<svg width="100" height="100">...</svg>
```

## Links & Media (cont.)

### **<canvas>**

Scriptable bitmap canvas.

Example:

```
<canvas id="chart"></canvas>
```

### **<iframe>**

Embedded browsing context.

Example:

```
<iframe src="https://example.com"></iframe>
```

### **<embed>**

External content integration.

Example:

```
<embed src="file.pdf" type="application/pdf">
```

### **<object>**

Generic external resource.

Example:

```
<object data="movie.swf" type="application/x-shockwave-flash"></object>
```

### **<param>**

Parameters for <object>.

Example:

```
<param name="autoplay" value="true">
```

### **<map> / <area>**

Image map and its clickable areas.

Example:

```
<map name="m"><area shape="rect" coords="0,0,50,50" href="#"></map>
```

# Tables

## **<table>**

Table container.

Example:

```
<table>...</table>
```

## **<caption>**

Table caption/title.

Example:

```
<caption>Sales</caption>
```

## **<thead>**

Table header group.

Example:

```
<thead>...</thead>
```

## **<tbody>**

Table body group.

Example:

```
<tbody>...</tbody>
```

## **<tfoot>**

Table footer group.

Example:

```
<tfoot>...</tfoot>
```

## **<tr>**

Table row.

Example:

```
<tr>...</tr>
```

## **<th>**

Header cell.

Example:

```
<th>Q1</th>
```

## **<td>**

Data cell.

Example:

```
<td>$100</td>
```

## **<colgroup> / <col>**

Column formatting.

Example:

```
<colgroup><col span="2"></colgroup>
```

# Forms

## **<form>**

Form container.

Example:

```
<form action="/submit" method="post">...</form>
```

## **<label>**

Caption for input control.

Example:

```
<label for="email">Email</label>
```

## **<input>**

Versatile input element.

Example:

```
<input type="text" id="email">
```

## **<textarea>**

Multi-line text field.

Example:

```
<textarea rows="4"></textarea>
```

## **<select>**

Drop-down list.

Example:

```
<select><option>One</option></select>
```

## **<option>**

Option item in select.

Example:

```
<option value="1">One</option>
```

## **<optgroup>**

Group of options.

Example:

```
<optgroup label="Group">...</optgroup>
```

## **<button>**

Clickable button.

Example:

```
<button type="submit">Send</button>
```

## **<fieldset>**

Group related controls.

Example:

```
<fieldset>...</fieldset>
```

## **<legend>**

Caption for a fieldset.

Example:

```
<legend>Payment</legend>
```

## Forms (cont.)

### **<datalist>**

Autocomplete options for input.

Example:

```
<datalist id="colors"><option>Red</option></datalist>
```

### **<output>**

Result of a calculation.

Example:

```
<output id="result">0</output>
```

### **<progress>**

Progress indicator.

Example:

```
<progress value="70" max="100">70%</progress>
```

### **<meter>**

Scalar measurement within a range.

Example:

```
<meter value="0.6">60%</meter>
```

# Web Components & Templates

## **<template>**

Client-side template content.

Example:

```
<template id="card">...</template>
```

## **<slot>**

Placeholder inside Web Components.

Example:

```
<slot name="title"></slot>
```

## **Custom Elements**

Author-defined tags using JS.

Example:

```
<my-widget></my-widget>
```

# Interactive & Disclosure

## **<details>**

Expandable disclosure widget.

Example:

```
<details><summary>More</summary>Hidden</details>
```

## **<summary>**

Summary/label for details.

Example:

```
<summary>More</summary>
```

## **<dialog>**

Dialog/modal element.

Example:

```
<dialog open>Hi</dialog>
```



# Accessibility Helpers

## Global ARIA

role/aria-\* attributes improve accessibility.

Example:

```
<nav role="navigation" aria-label="Main"></nav>
```

## Alt text

Always provide alt on images.

Example:

```
<img alt="Chart showing growth" ...>
```

## Landmarks

Use semantic tags for structure.

Example:

```
<header>, <main>, <footer>
```

# Quick Tips

A concise, practical reference

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- Prefer semantic elements (`<header>`, `<main>`, `<nav>`, `<footer>`, etc.) over generic `<div>`/`<span>` structure.
- Always provide alt text for meaningful images (`<img alt="...">`).
- Use one `<h1>` per page/section and keep heading levels in order.
- Group form controls with `<label>`, `<fieldset>`, and `<legend>` for accessibility.
- Use `<time datetime="YYYY-MM-DD">` for machine-readable dates.
- For responsive images, prefer `<picture>` and modern formats (e.g., WebP/AVIF) with fallbacks.
- Defer/async scripts when possible (`<script defer src="..."></script>`).
- Validate HTML with the W3C validator and test with screen readers.