

<pre>: The Preformatted Text element

The `<pre>` [HTML](#) element represents preformatted text which is to be presented exactly as written in the HTML file. The text is typically rendered using a non-proportional, or [monospaced](#) [↗], font. Whitespace inside this element is displayed as written.

Try it

HTML Demo: <pre> RESET

HTML CSS

```
1 <pre>
2   L           TE
3   A           A
4   C           V
5   R A
6   DOU
7   LOU
8   REUSE
9   QUE TU
10  PORTES
11  ET QUI T'
12  ORNE O CI
13  VILISÉ
14  OTE- TU VEUX
15  LA BIEN
16  SI RESPI
17           RER      - Apollinaire
18 </pre>
19
```

OUTPUT

If you have to display reserved characters such as `<`, `>`, `&`, and `"` within the `<pre>` tag, the characters must be escaped using their respective [HTML entity](#).

Attributes

This element only includes the [global attributes](#).

`cols` ⚠️ 🗑️

Contains the *preferred* count of characters that a line should have. It was a non-standard synonym of `width`. To achieve such an effect, use CSS `width` instead.

`width` 🗑️ ⚠️

Contains the *preferred* count of characters that a line should have. Though technically still implemented, this attribute has no visual effect; to achieve such an effect, use CSS `width` instead.

`wrap` ⚠️ 🗑️

Is a *hint* indicating how the overflow must happen. In modern browser this hint is ignored and no visual effect results in its present; to achieve such an effect, use CSS `white-space` instead.

Accessibility concerns

It is important to provide an alternate description for any images or diagrams created using preformatted text. The alternate description should clearly and concisely describe the image or diagram's content.

People experiencing low vision conditions and browsing with the aid of assistive technology such as a screen reader may not understand what the preformatted text characters are representing when they are read out in sequence.

A combination of the `<figure>` and `<figcaption>` elements, supplemented by the `ARIA` `role` and `aria-label` attributes on the `pre` element allow the preformatted ASCII art to be announced as an image with alternative text, and the `figcaption` serving as the image's caption.

Example

```
<figure>
  <pre role="img" aria-label="ASCII COW">

  &lt; I'm an expert in my field. &gt;

  -----
  \  ^__^
  \ (oo)\_______
    (__)\       )\/\
      ||----w |
      ||     ||

  </pre>
  <figcaption id="cow-caption">
    A cow saying, "I'm an expert in my field." The cow is illustrated using
    preformatted text characters.
```

```
</figcaption>
</figure>
```

- [MDN Understanding WCAG, Guideline 1.1 explanations](#)
- [H86: Providing text alternatives for ASCII art, emoticons, and leetspeak | W3C Techniques for WCAG 2.0](#) ↗

Examples

Basic example

HTML

```
<p>Using CSS to change the font color is easy.</p>
<pre>
body {
  color: red;
}
</pre>
```



Result

Using CSS to change the font color is easy.

```
body {
  color: red;
}
```

Escaping reserved characters

HTML

```
<pre>
let i = 5;

if (i &lt; 10 &amp;&amp; i &gt; 0)
  return &quot;Single Digit Number&quot;
</pre>
```



Result

```
let i = 5;

if (i < 10 && i > 0)
  return "Single Digit Number"
```

Technical Summary

Content categories	Flow content , palpable content.
Permitted content	Phrasing content .
Tag omission	None, both the starting and ending tag are mandatory.
Permitted parents	Any element that accepts flow content .
Implicit ARIA role	No corresponding role ↗
Permitted ARIA roles	Any
DOM interface	HTMLPreElement

Specifications

Specification
HTML Standard # the-pre-element

Browser compatibility

[Report problems with this compatibility data on GitHub](#) [↗](#)

	Desktop					Mobile				
	Chrome	Edge	Firefox	Opera	Safari	Chrome Android	Firefox for Android	Opera Android	Safari on iOS	Samsung Internet
pre	✓ Chrome Yes	✓ Edge 12	✓ Firefox 1	✓ Opera Yes	✓ Safari Yes	✓ Chrome Yes Android	✓ Firefox for 4 Android	✓ Opera Yes Android	✓ Safari on Yes iOS	✓ Samsun Interne
cols ⛔ ⚠	✗ Chrome No	✗ Edge No	✗ Firefox 1–28	✗ Opera No	✗ Safari No	✗ Chrome No Android	✗ Firefox 4–28 for Android	✗ Opera No Android	✗ Safari on No iOS	✗ Samsur Interne
width ⛔ ⚠	✓ Chrome Yes *	✓ Edge 12 *	✓ Firefox 1 *	✓ Opera Yes *	✓ Safari Yes *	✓ Chrome Yes * Android	✓ Firefox 4 * for Android	✓ Opera Yes * Android	✓ Safari Yes * on iOS	✓ Samsung Internet
wrap ⛔ ⚠	? Chrome ?	? Edge ?	✓ Firefox 1	? Opera ?	? Safari ?	? Chrome ? Android	✓ Firefox for 4 Android	? Opera ? Android	? Safari on ? iOS	? Samsu Intern

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✓ Full support ✗ No support ? Compatibility unknown ⚠ Non-standard: Check cross-browser support before using. ⛔ Deprecated: Not for use in new websites. * See implementation notes.

See also

- CSS: [white-space](#) , [word-break](#)
- [HTML Entity](#)
- Related element: [<code>](#)

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