

HTML attributes provide additional information about HTML elements.

HTML Attributes

All HTML elements can have attributes

Attributes provide additional information about elements

Attributes are always specified in the start tag

Attributes usually come in name/value pairs like: name="value"

The href Attribute

The <a> tag defines a hyperlink. The href attribute specifies the URL of the page the link goes to:

Example

```
<a href="https://www.w3schools.com">Visit W3Schools</a>
```

You will learn more about links in our HTML Links chapter.

The src Attribute

The tag is used to embed an image in an HTML page. The src attribute specifies the path to the image to be displayed:

Example

```

```

There are two ways to specify the URL in the src attribute:

1. Absolute URL - Links to an external image that is hosted on another website. Example:

```
src="https://www.w3schools.com/images/img_girl.jpg".
```

Notes: External images might be under copyright. If you do not get permission to use it, you may be in violation of copyright laws. In addition, you cannot control external images; it can suddenly be removed or changed.

2. Relative URL - Links to an image that is hosted within the website. Here, the URL does not include the domain name. If the URL begins without a slash, it will be relative to the current page.

Example: src="img_girl.jpg". If the URL begins with a slash, it will be relative to the domain.

Example: src="/images/img_girl.jpg".

Tip: It is almost always best to use relative URLs. They will not break if you change domain.

The width and height Attributes

The tag should also contain the width and height attributes, which specifies the width and height of the image (in pixels):

Example

```

```

The alt Attribute

The required alt attribute for the tag specifies an alternate text for an image, if the image for some reason cannot be displayed. This can be due to slow connection, or an error in the src attribute, or if the user uses a screen reader.

Example

```

```

Example

See what happens if we try to display an image that does not exist:

``

You will learn more about images in our [HTML Images](#) chapter.

ADVERTISEMENT

The style Attribute

The style attribute is used to add styles to an element, such as color, font, size, and more.

Example

`<p style="color:red;">This is a red paragraph.</p>`

You will learn more about styles in our [HTML Styles](#) chapter.

The lang Attribute

You should always include the lang attribute inside the `<html>` tag, to declare the language of the Web page. This is meant to assist search engines and browsers.

The following example specifies English as the language:

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
```

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

```
<body>
```

```
...
```

```
</body>
```

```
</html>
```

Country codes can also be added to the language code in the lang attribute. So, the first two characters define the language of the HTML page, and the last two characters define the country.

The following example specifies English as the language and United States as the country:

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
```

```
<html lang="en-US">
```

```
<body>
```

```
...
```

```
</body>
```

```
</html>
```

You can see all the language codes in our [HTML Language Code Reference](#).

The title Attribute

The title attribute defines some extra information about an element.

The value of the title attribute will be displayed as a tooltip when you mouse over the element:

Example

`<p title="I'm a tooltip">This is a paragraph.</p>`

We Suggest: Always Use Lowercase Attributes

The HTML standard does not require lowercase attribute names.

The title attribute (and all other attributes) can be written with uppercase or lowercase like title or TITLE.

However, W3C recommends lowercase attributes in HTML, and demands lowercase attributes for stricter document types like XHTML.

At W3Schools we always use lowercase attribute names.

We Suggest: Always Quote Attribute Values

The HTML standard does not require quotes around attribute values.

However, W3C recommends quotes in HTML, and demands quotes for stricter document types like XHTML.

Good:

```
<a href="https://www.w3schools.com/html/">Visit our HTML tutorial</a>
```

Bad:

```
<a href=https://www.w3schools.com/html/>Visit our HTML tutorial</a>
```

Sometimes you have to use quotes. This example will not display the title attribute correctly, because it contains a space:

Example

```
<p title>About W3Schools>
```

At W3Schools we always use quotes around attribute values.

Single or Double Quotes?

Double quotes around attribute values are the most common in HTML, but single quotes can also be used.

In some situations, when the attribute value itself contains double quotes, it is necessary to use single quotes:

```
<p title='John "ShotGun" Nelson'>
```

Or vice versa:

```
<p title="John 'ShotGun' Nelson">
```

Chapter Summary

All HTML elements can have attributes

The href attribute of <a> specifies the URL of the page the link goes to

The src attribute of specifies the path to the image to be displayed

The width and height attributes of provide size information for images

The alt attribute of provides an alternate text for an image

The style attribute is used to add styles to an element, such as color, font, size, and more

The lang attribute of the <html> tag declares the language of the Web page

The title attribute defines some extra information about an element