



# HTML <meta> Tag

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## Example

Describe metadata within an HTML document:

```
<head>
  <meta charset="UTF-8">
  <meta name="description" content="Free Web tutorials">
  <meta name="keywords" content="HTML, CSS, JavaScript">
  <meta name="author" content="John Doe">
  <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-
scale=1.0">
</head>
```

[Try it Yourself »](#)

More "Try it Yourself" examples below.

## Definition and Usage

The **<meta>** tag defines metadata about an HTML document. Metadata is data (information) about data.

**<meta>** tags always go inside the **<head>** element, and are typically used to specify character set, page description, keywords, author of the document, and viewport settings.

Metadata will not be displayed on the page, but is machine parsable.



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page), through the `<meta>` tag (See "Setting The Viewport" example below).

## Browser Support

Element					
<code>&lt;meta&gt;</code>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

## Attributes

Attribute	Value	Description
<u><a href="#">charset</a></u>	<i>character_set</i>	Specifies the character encoding for the HTML document
<u><a href="#">content</a></u>	<i>text</i>	Specifies the value associated with the http-equiv or name attribute
<u><a href="#">http-equiv</a></u>	content-security-policy content-type default-style refresh	Provides an HTTP header for the information/value of the content attribute
<u><a href="#">name</a></u>	application-name author description generator keywords viewport	Specifies a name for the metadata

## Global Attributes

The `<meta>` tag also supports the [Global Attributes in HTML](#).



### Define keywords for search engines:

```
<meta name="keywords" content="HTML, CSS, JavaScript">
```

### Define a description of your web page:

```
<meta name="description" content="Free Web tutorials for HTML and CSS">
```

### Define the author of a page:

```
<meta name="author" content="John Doe">
```

### Refresh document every 30 seconds:

```
<meta http-equiv="refresh" content="30">
```

### Setting the viewport to make your website look good on all devices:

```
<meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
```

## Setting the Viewport

The viewport is the user's visible area of a web page. It varies with the device - it will be smaller on a mobile phone than on a computer screen.

You should include the following `<meta>` element in all your web pages:

```
<meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
```

This gives the browser instructions on how to control the page's dimensions and scaling.

The `width=device-width` part sets the width of the page to follow the screen-width of the device (which will vary depending on the device).

viewport meta tag:

**Tip:** If you are browsing this page with a phone or a tablet, you can click on the two links below to see the difference.



**Without the viewport meta tag**



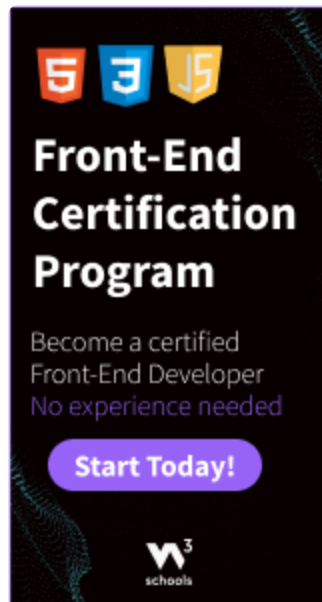
**With the viewport meta tag**

You can read more about the viewport in our [Responsive Web Design - The Viewport Tutorial](#).

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