

# **HTML Form Elements**



This chapter describes all HTML form elements.

# The <input> Element

The most important form element is the <input> element.

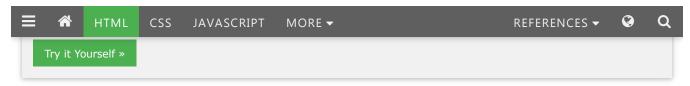
The <input> element can be displayed in several ways, depending on the type attribute.

If the type attribute is omitted, the input field gets the default type: "text".

All the different input types are covered in the next chapter.

# The <select> Element

The <select> element defines a drop-down list:



The coption> elements defines an option that can be selected.

By default, the first item in the drop-down list is selected.

To define a pre-selected option, add the selected attribute to the option:

#### Visible Values:

Use the size attribute to specify the number of visible values:

### Allow Multiple Selections:

Use the multiple attribute to allow the user to select more than one value:



The <textarea> element defines a multi-line input field (a text area):

```
Example

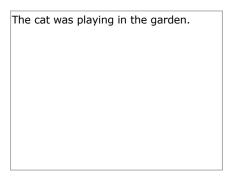
<textarea name="message" rows="10" cols="30">
The cat was playing in the garden.
</textarea>

Try it Yourself >
```

The rows attribute specifies the visible number of lines in a text area.

The cols attribute specifies the visible width of a text area.

This is how the HTML code above will be displayed in a browser:



You can also define the size of the text area by using CSS:

```
Example

<textarea name="message" style="width:200px; height:600px;">
The cat was playing in the garden.
</textarea>

Try it Yourself »
```

## The <button> Element

The <button> element defines a clickable **button**:



This is how the HTML code above will be displayed in a browser:

Click Me!

**Note:** Always specify the **type** attribute for the button element. Different browsers may use different default types for the button element.

### HTML5 Form Elements

HTML5 added the following form elements:

- <datalist>
- <output>

**Note:** Browsers do not display unknown elements. New elements that are not supported in older browsers will not "destroy" your web page.

# HTML5 <datalist> Element

The <datalist> element specifies a list of pre-defined options for an <input> element.

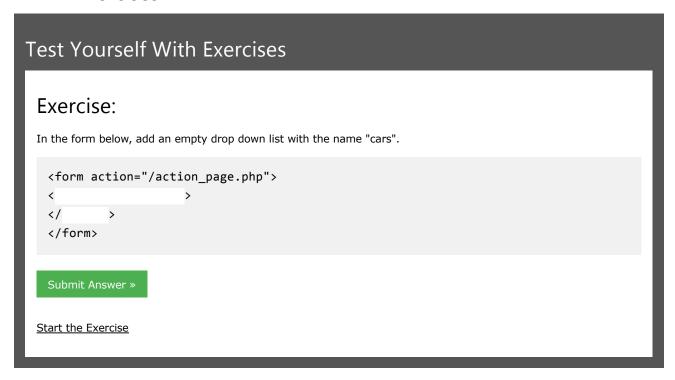
Users will see a drop-down list of the pre-defined options as they input data.

The list attribute of the <input> element, must refer to the id attribute of the <datalist> element.



The <output> element represents the result of a calculation (like one performed by a script).

### **HTML Exercises**





Tag	Description
<form></form>	Defines an HTML form for user input
<input/>	Defines an input control
<textarea>&lt;/td&gt;&lt;td&gt;Defines a multiline input control (text area)&lt;/td&gt;&lt;/tr&gt;&lt;tr&gt;&lt;td&gt;&lt;label&gt;&lt;/td&gt;&lt;td&gt;Defines a label for an &lt;input&gt; element&lt;/td&gt;&lt;/tr&gt;&lt;tr&gt;&lt;td&gt;&lt;fieldset&gt;&lt;/td&gt;&lt;td&gt;Groups related elements in a form&lt;/td&gt;&lt;/tr&gt;&lt;tr&gt;&lt;td&gt;&lt;legend&gt;&lt;/td&gt;&lt;td&gt;Defines a caption for a &lt;fieldset&gt; element&lt;/td&gt;&lt;/tr&gt;&lt;tr&gt;&lt;td&gt;&lt;select&gt;&lt;/td&gt;&lt;td&gt;Defines a drop-down list&lt;/td&gt;&lt;/tr&gt;&lt;tr&gt;&lt;td&gt;&lt;optgroup&gt;&lt;/td&gt;&lt;td&gt;Defines a group of related options in a drop-down list&lt;/td&gt;&lt;/tr&gt;&lt;tr&gt;&lt;td&gt;&lt;option&gt;&lt;/td&gt;&lt;td&gt;Defines an option in a drop-down list&lt;/td&gt;&lt;/tr&gt;&lt;tr&gt;&lt;td&gt;&lt;button&gt;&lt;/td&gt;&lt;td&gt;Defines a clickable button&lt;/td&gt;&lt;/tr&gt;&lt;tr&gt;&lt;td&gt;&lt;datalist&gt;&lt;/td&gt;&lt;td&gt;Specifies a list of pre-defined options for input controls&lt;/td&gt;&lt;/tr&gt;&lt;tr&gt;&lt;td&gt;&lt;output&gt;&lt;/td&gt;&lt;td&gt;Defines the result of a calculation&lt;/td&gt;&lt;/tr&gt;&lt;/tbody&gt;&lt;/table&gt;</textarea>	

For a complete list of all available HTML tags, visit our <u>HTML Tag Reference</u>.

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