HTML <!DOCTYPE> Declaration

The <!DOCTYPE> declaration must be the very first thing in your HTML document, before the <html> tag.

The <!DOCTYPE> declaration is not an HTML tag; it is an instruction to the web browser about what version of HTML the page is written in.

In HTML 4.01, the <!DOCTYPE> declaration refers to a DTD, because HTML 4.01 was based on SGML. The DTD specifies the rules for the markup language, so that the browsers render the content correctly.

HTML5 is not based on SGML, and therefore does not require a reference to a DTD.

**Tip:** Always add the <!DOCTYPE> declaration to your HTML documents, so that the browser knows what type of document to expect.

**Tip:** The <!DOCTYPE> declaration is NOT case sensitive.

**Tip:** To check if the HTML of your Web documents is valid, go to [W3C's validation service](http://validator.w3.org/).

<!DOCTYPE html>  
<html>  
<head>  
<title>Title of the document</title>  
</head>  
  
<body>  
The content of the document......  
</body>  
  
</html>

## Common DOCTYPE Declarations

### HTML 5

<!DOCTYPE html>

### HTML 4.01 Strict

This DTD contains all HTML elements and attributes, but does NOT INCLUDE presentational or deprecated elements (like font). Framesets are not allowed.

<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD HTML 4.01//EN" "http://www.w3.org/TR/html4/strict.dtd">

### HTML 4.01 Transitional

This DTD contains all HTML elements and attributes, INCLUDING presentational and deprecated elements (like font). Framesets are not allowed.

<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD HTML 4.01 Transitional//EN" "http://www.w3.org/TR/html4/loose.dtd">

### HTML 4.01 Frameset

This DTD is equal to HTML 4.01 Transitional, but allows the use of frameset content.

<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD HTML 4.01 Frameset//EN" "http://www.w3.org/TR/html4/frameset.dtd">

### XHTML 1.0 Strict

This DTD contains all HTML elements and attributes, but does NOT INCLUDE presentational or deprecated elements (like font). Framesets are not allowed. The markup must also be written as well-formed XML.

<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Strict//EN" "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-strict.dtd">

### XHTML 1.0 Transitional

This DTD contains all HTML elements and attributes, INCLUDING presentational and deprecated elements (like font). Framesets are not allowed. The markup must also be written as well-formed XML.

<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Transitional//EN" "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-transitional.dtd">

### XHTML 1.0 Frameset

This DTD is equal to XHTML 1.0 Transitional, but allows the use of frameset content.

<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Frameset//EN" "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-frameset.dtd">

### XHTML 1.1

This DTD is equal to XHTML 1.0 Strict, but allows you to add modules (for example to provide ruby support for East-Asian languages).

<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.1//EN" "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml11/DTD/xhtml11.dtd">

# HTML <html> Tag

The <html> tag tells the browser that this is an HTML document.

The <html> tag represents the root of an HTML document.

The <html> tag is the container for all other HTML elements (except for the <!DOCTYPE> tag).

## Attributes

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Attribute** | **Value** | **Description** |
| manifest  [HTML 5] | *URL* | Specifies the address of the document's cache manifest (for offline browsing) |
| xmlns | http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml | Specifies the XML namespace attribute (If you need your content to conform to XHTML) |

<!DOCTYPE html>  
<html>  
<head>  
<title>Title of the document</title>  
</head>  
  
<body>  
The content of the document......  
</body>  
  
</html>

# HTML <title> Tag

The <title> tag is required in all HTML documents and it defines the title of the document.

The <title> element:

* defines a title in the browser toolbar
* provides a title for the page when it is added to favorites
* displays a title for the page in search-engine results

**Note:** You can NOT have more than one <title> element in an HTML document.

**Tip:** If you omit the <title> tag, the document will not validate as HTML.

<!DOCTYPE html>  
<html>  
  
<head>  
  <title>HTML Reference</title>  
</head>  
  
<body>  
The content of the document......  
</body>  
  
</html>

# HTML <body> Tag

The <body> tag defines the document's body.

The <body> element contains all the contents of an HTML document, such as text, hyperlinks, images, tables, lists, etc.

## Attributes

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Attribute** | **Value** | **Description** |
| alink | *color* | Not supported in HTML5. Specifies the color of an active link in a document |
| background | *URL* | Not supported in HTML5. Specifies a background image for a document |
| bgcolor | *color* | Not supported in HTML5. Specifies the background color of a document |
| link | *color* | Not supported in HTML5.  Specifies the color of unvisited links in a document |
| text | *color* | Not supported in HTML5.  Specifies the color of the text in a document |
| vlink | *color* | Not supported in HTML5. Specifies the color of visited links in a document |

<html>  
<head>  
<title>Title of the document</title>  
</head>  
  
<body>  
The content of the document......  
</body>  
  
</html>

# HTML <h1> to <h6> Tags

The <h1> to <h6> tags are used to define HTML headings.

<h1> defines the most important heading. <h6> defines the least important heading.

## Attributes

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Attribute** | **Value** | **Description** |
| align | left center right justify | Not supported in HTML5. Specifies the alignment of a heading |

<h1>This is heading 1</h1>  
<h2>This is heading 2</h2>  
<h3>This is heading 3</h3>  
<h4>This is heading 4</h4>  
<h5>This is heading 5</h5>  
<h6>This is heading 6</h6>

# HTML <p> Tag

The <p> tag defines a paragraph.

Browsers automatically add some space (margin) before and after each <p> element. The margins can be modified with CSS (with the margin properties).

## Attributes

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Attribute** | **Value** | **Description** |
| align | left right center justify | Not supported in HTML5. Specifies the alignment of the text within a paragraph |

<p>This is some text in a paragraph.</p>

# HTML <br> Tag

The <br> tag inserts a single line break.

The <br> tag is an empty tag which means that it has no end tag.

**Tip:** The <br> tag is useful for writing addresses or poems.

**Note:** Use the <br> tag to enter line breaks, not to separate paragraphs.

This text contains<br>a line break.

# HTML <hr> Tag

The <hr> tag defines a thematic break in an HTML page (e.g. a shift of topic).

The <hr> element is used to separate content (or define a change) in an HTML page.

## Attributes

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Attribute** | **Value** | **Description** |
| align | left center right | Not supported in HTML5. Specifies the alignment of a <hr> element |
| noshade | noshade | Not supported in HTML5. Specifies that a <hr> element should render in one solid color (noshaded), instead of a shaded color |
| size | *pixels* | Not supported in HTML5. Specifies the height of a <hr> element |
| width | *pixels %* | Not supported in HTML5. Specifies the width of a <hr> element |

<h1>HTML</h1>  
<p>HTML is a language for describing web pages.....</p>  
  
<hr>  
  
<h1>CSS</h1>  
<p>CSS defines how to display HTML elements.....</p>

# HTML <!--...--> Tag

The comment tag is used to insert comments in the source code. Comments are not displayed in the browsers.

You can use comments to explain your code, which can help you when you edit the source code at a later date. This is especially useful if you have a lot of code.

<!--This is a comment. Comments are not displayed in the browser-->  
  
<p>This is a paragraph.</p>

You can also use the comment tag to "hide" scripts from browsers without support for scripts (so they don't show them as plain text):

<script type="text/javascript">  
<!--  
function displayMsg() {  
    alert("Hello World!")  
}  
//-->  
</script>

**Note:** The two forward slashes at the end of comment line (//) is the JavaScript comment symbol. This prevents JavaScript from executing the --> tag.