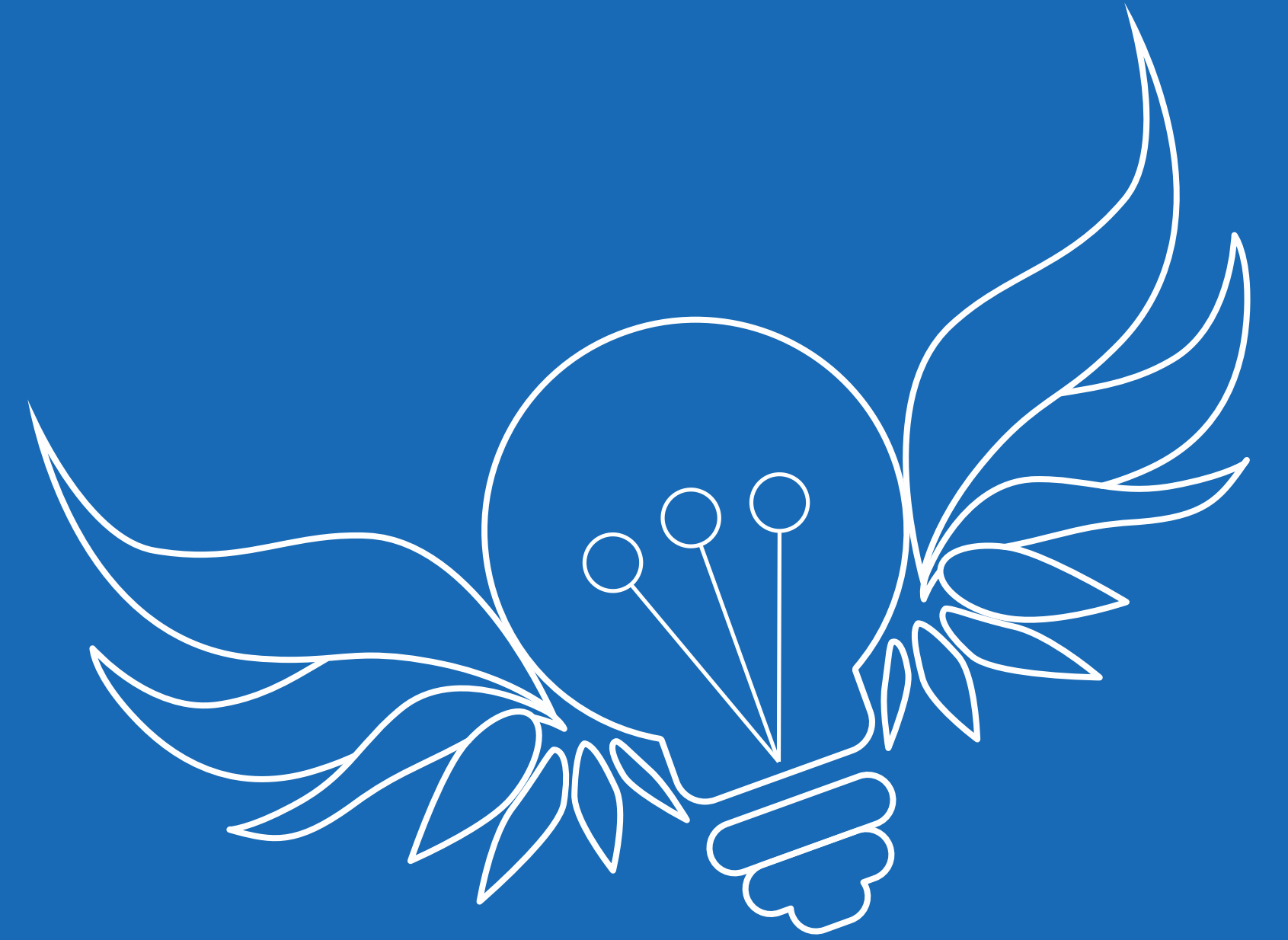




# ACCESSIBILITY: WEB FORM BEST PRACTICES

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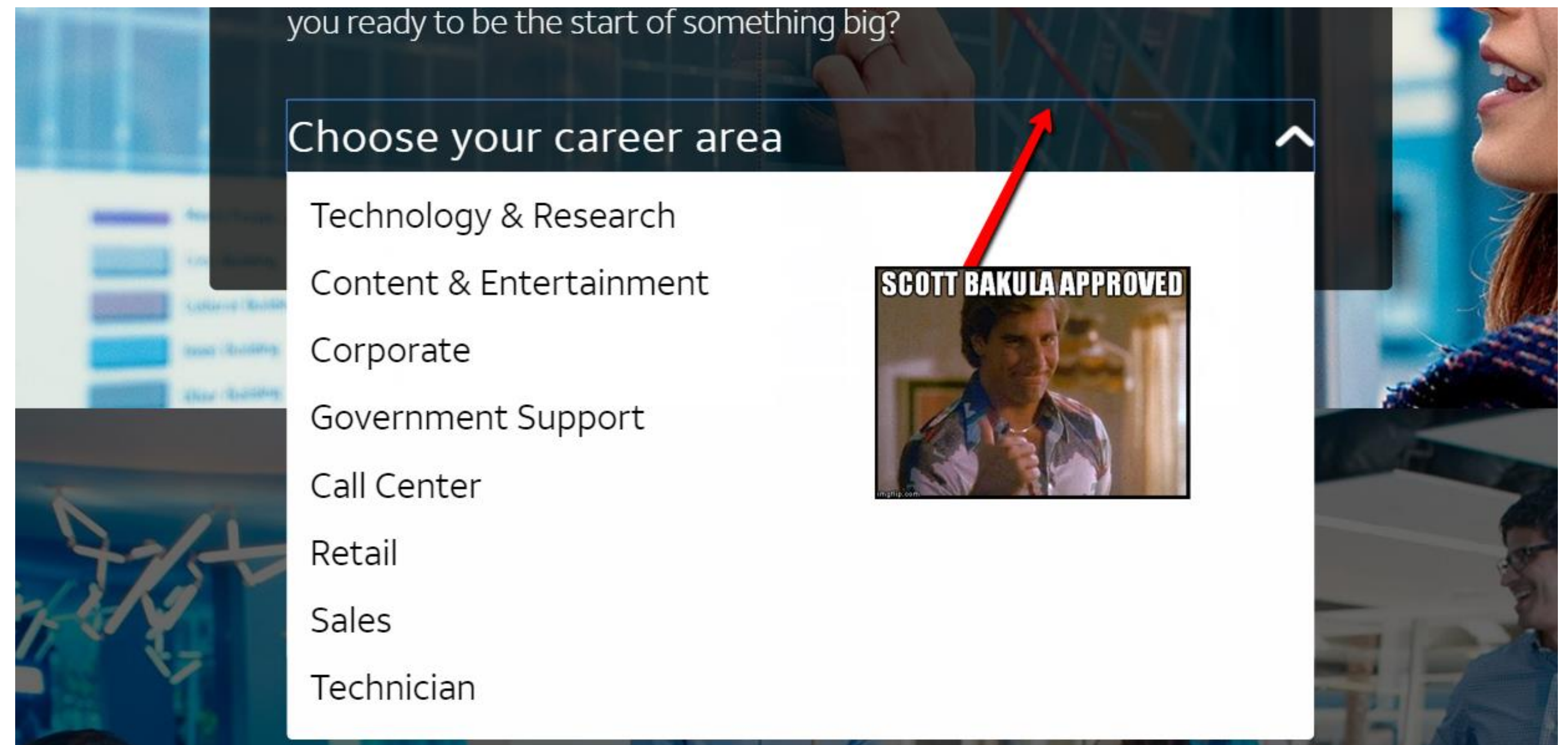


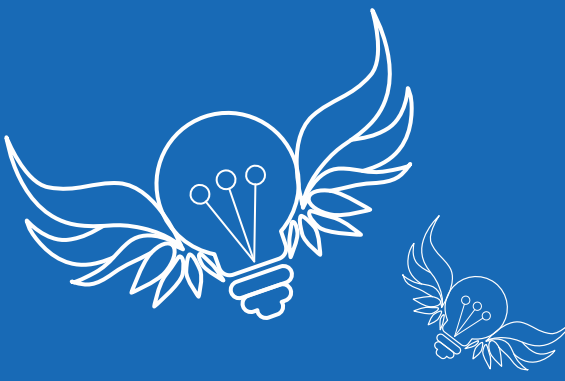
1. As always, ensure that your source code is laid out in a logical order.
  2. Tabbing through your form should be easy. A logical order not only benefits assistive technology users, but also power users who may tab through your interface.
- !important:** Do not use **tabindex** to address source order issues. The best solution is to fix your source order.



**!important:** Never disable focus rings (No matter how badly colleagues may beg you). What you can do is:

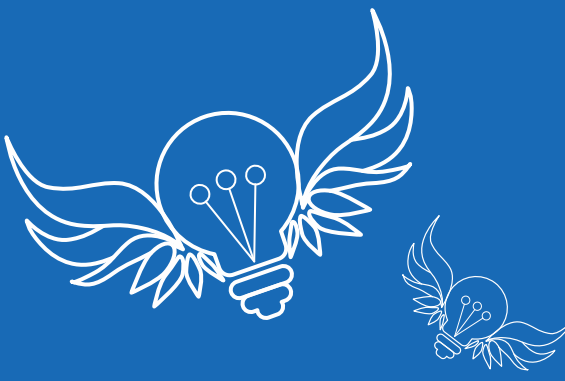
1. Redesign the focus ring (But make sure new ring is equally viewable).
2. Rely on state changes.





Try to always include form labels (No matter how badly colleagues may beg you not to).

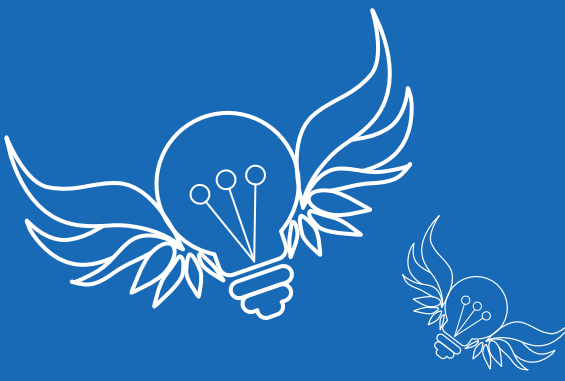
There are two ways to associate form labels with their fields:



Explicit Association:

```
<label for="first-name">First Name</label>
```

```
<input id="first-name" name="first-name">
```



Implicit Association:

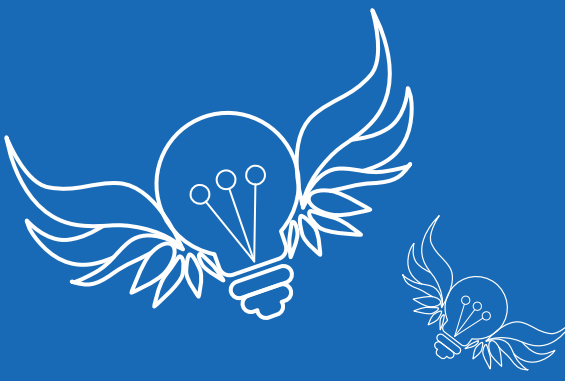
**<label>**First Name

`<input id="first-name" name="first-name">`

**</label>**

You will likely use the first method most of the time, but this may be useful with components like radio buttons or checkboxes.





If you ***must*** hide labels...

Show them on focus

<https://styleguide.talentbrew.com/latest/#/design/components/inputs>

**Pros:** Best of both worlds...sort of.

**Cons:** Context may be lost if field is auto-populated with data.



Other Techniques:

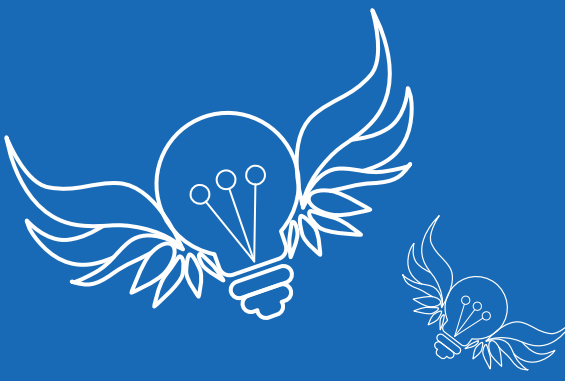
Using ARIA

```
<input aria-label="First Name" id="first-name" name="first-name">
```

Visually Hidden

```
<label for="first-name" class="visually-hidden">First Name</label>
```





**Pros: None** (Unless you count making designers and stakeholders happy...I guess).

**Cons:**

Only screen reader users will benefit.\*

Context may be lost if field is auto-populated with data.

aria-label can't be translated into other languages by services like Google Translate.

Reinforces bad practice of using placeholders for labels.



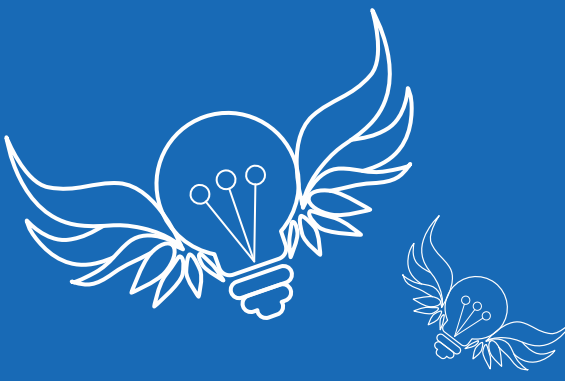
Placeholder text is *not a label*. Placeholder text should only be used to *help guide input or act as a hint*. This is especially useful when you want to suggest that data be formatted in a particular way:

```
<input id="phone" name="phone" placeholder="e.g. 867-5309">
```

Do not *repeat* label text in a placeholder:

```
<label for="first-name">First Name</label>
```

```
<input id="first-name" name="first-name" placeholder="First Name">
```



Try to avoid building custom components that are already natively available in HTML. For example:

```
<div class="button">Submit</div>
```

To get this to behave like a native button we would need to add additional attributes:

```
<div class="button" role="button" tabindex="0">Submit</div>
```

In addition to possible scripting to submit data, etc.



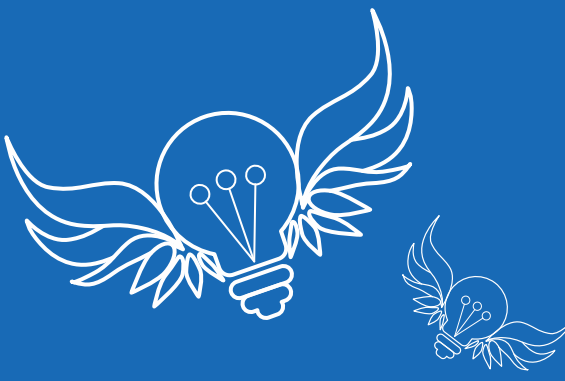
A button element is *intrinsically accessible* without the need to add attributes (and potentially risk harming accessibility if you don't know what you are doing), so this is all we would need:

```
<button>Submit</button>
```

Side note, using a hyperlink for a button is an equally bad practice. Don't do it!:

```
<a href="#" class="button">Submit</a>
```

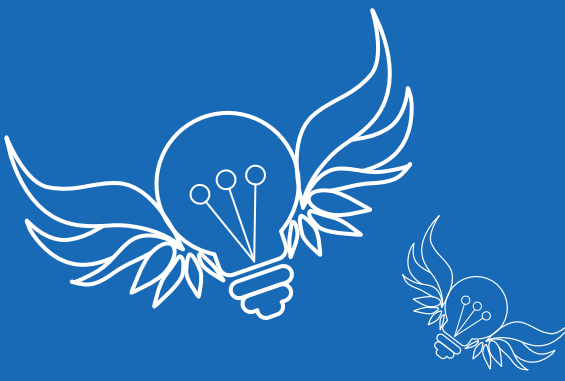
**Good Example:** <https://www.screencast.com/t/GQRcc5tsm73S>



1. All form components must be keyboard friendly. Tab through your work frequently and note behavior. (*Listen* to your work with a screen reader, too!)
2. If you ***must*** build custom components, you will need to ensure proper keyboard handling, focus management, and (dynamic) ARIA usage. This is hard, and often unnecessary, work, but there are good examples around...

**Good example:**

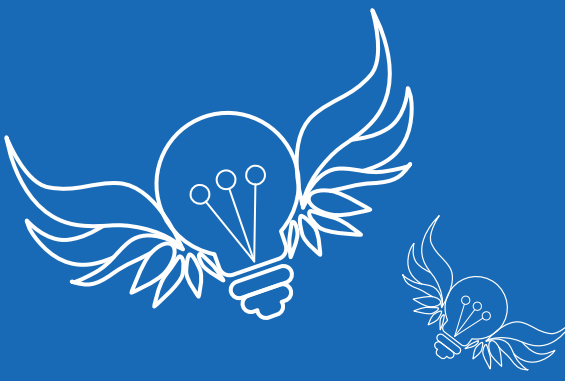
<https://styleguide.talentbrew.com/latest/#/design/controls/select>



Use fieldsets to group sections in large forms or sections that may have *identical* information.

Let's take a look at an example of identical information...





## Bad Example:

```
<section id="section-1">
```

```
  <input type="checkbox" id="category-filter-0">  
  <label for="category-filter-0">Administrative</label>
```

```
</section>
```

...

```
<section id="section-2">
```

```
  <input type="checkbox" id="category-filter-42">  
  <label for="category-filter-42">Administrative</label>
```

```
</section>
```



## Good Example:

```
<fieldset id="section-1">
```

```
  <legend>Category</legend>
```

```
  <input type="checkbox" id="category-filter-0">
```

```
  <label for="category-filter-0">Administrative</label>
```

```
</fieldset>
```

```
<fieldset id="section-2">
```

```
  <legend>Country/Region</legend>
```

```
  <input type="checkbox" id="category-filter-42">
```

```
  <label for="category-filter-42">Administrative</label>
```

```
</fieldset>
```



# HTML5 TYPE ATTRIBUTES



Always use HTML5 Type Attributes. Doing so will bring up contextual virtual keyboards on mobile devices.

```
<input type="tel" id="phone" name="phone">
```

Non-supportive browser will simply fallback to `type="text"`.

#progressiveenhancement #ftw

productsupport.tmp.com

Your Email Address \*

We will only use your email address to respond to your message.

Your Phone Number \*

Your Local TMP Office \*

Select Location

ACCOUNT

1 2 ABC 3 DEF -

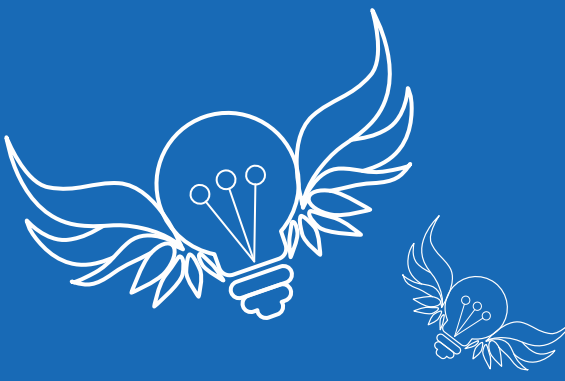
4 GHI 5 JKL 6 MNO \_

7 PRQS 8 TUV 9 WXYZ X

\* # 0 + . →



# HTML5 TYPE ATTRIBUTES



search

email

url

tel

number

range

date

month

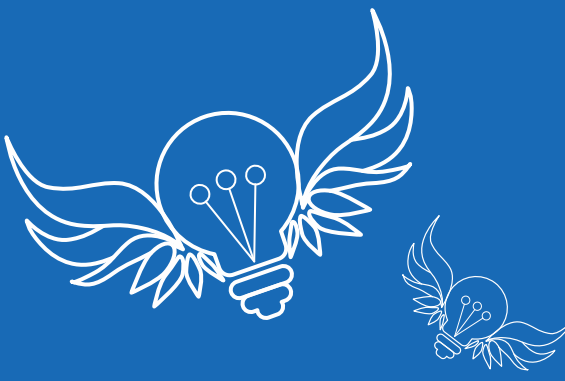
week

time

datetime

datetime-local

color



If your form field includes advisory text:

Your Email Address \*

*We will only use your email address to respond to your message.*

`<label for="email">Email Address:</label>`

`<input id="email" name="email" type="email">`

`<p>We will only use your email address to respond to your message.</p>`



You can associate the input field and the text by using aria-describedby:

```
<label for="email">Email Address:</label>
```

```
<input id="email" name="email" type="email" aria-describedby="note-email">
```

```
<p id="note-email">We will only use your email address to respond to your message.</p>
```

Example: <https://www.screencast.com/t/u6Z6BOTYpxdd>

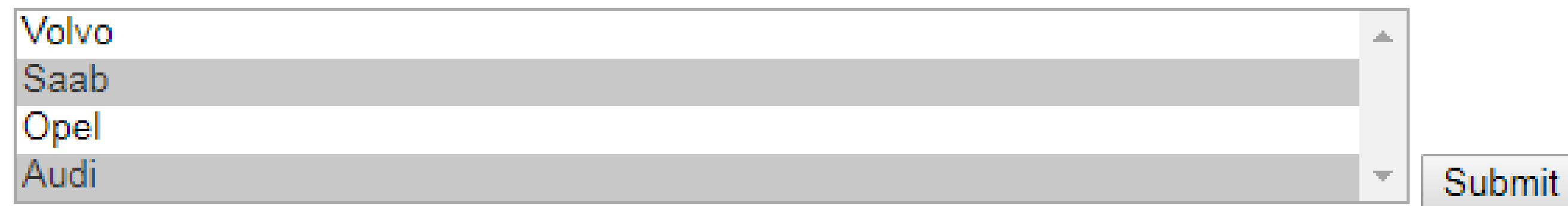




# MULTISELECT VS. CHECKBOXES: FIGHT!

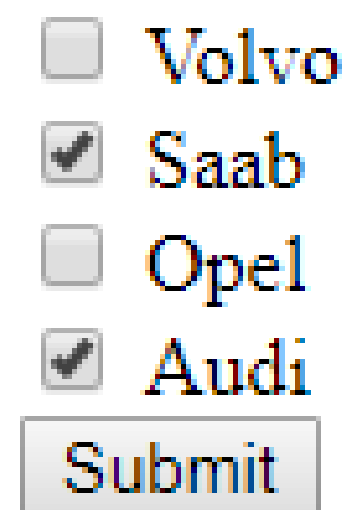


A quick note about multiselect fields – stay away from them!



Hold down the Ctrl (windows) / Command (Mac) button to select multiple options.

They require different commands for different operating systems and work poorly on mobile, so use checkboxes instead! Sweet!



Ah, better.



Where you would include an asterisk to visually indicate a required field you must also include the `required` and `aria-required` (for not much longer) attributes.

```
<label for="email">Email Address* </label>
```

```
<input id="email" name="email" type="email" required aria-required="true">
```

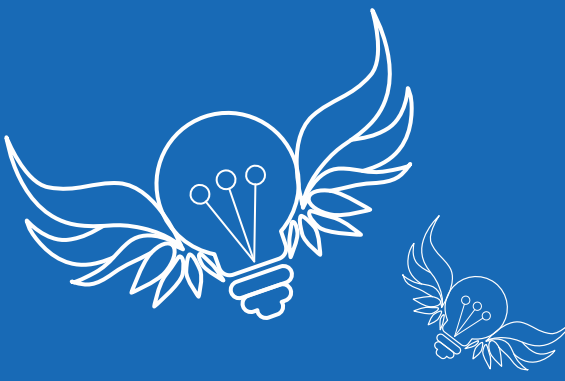


If there are inline errors, this is how you could handle it:

```
<label for="email">Email Address* </label>
```

```
<input id="email" name="email" type="email" required aria-  
required="true" aria-invalid="true" aria-describedby="email-error">
```

```
<p id="email-error"><strong>Your email address is  
required.</strong></p>
```



When grouping issues in a single message:

```
<div role="alert">
```

```
<p>Please address the following issues in your form:</p>
```

```
<ol>
```

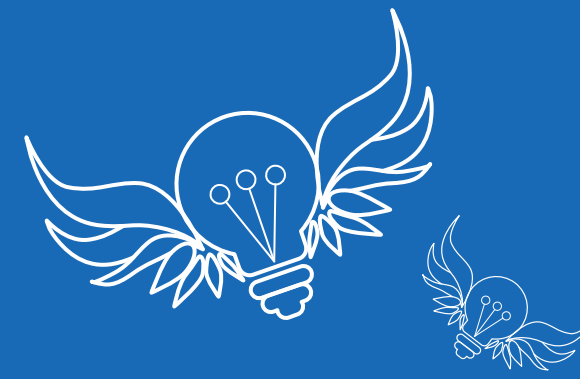
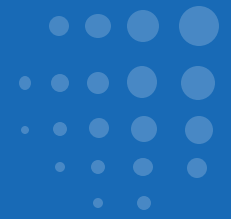
```
<li><a href="#company-name">Your Company Name</a> is a required field.</li>
```

```
<li><a href="#first-name">First Name</a> is a required field.</li>
```

```
<li><a href="#last-name">Last Name</a> is a required field.</li>
```

```
</ol>
```

```
</div>
```



## When grouping issues:

Please address the following issues in your form:

1. Your Company Name is a required field.
2. First Name is a required field.
3. Last Name is a required field.

### YOUR INFORMATION

Your Company Name \*

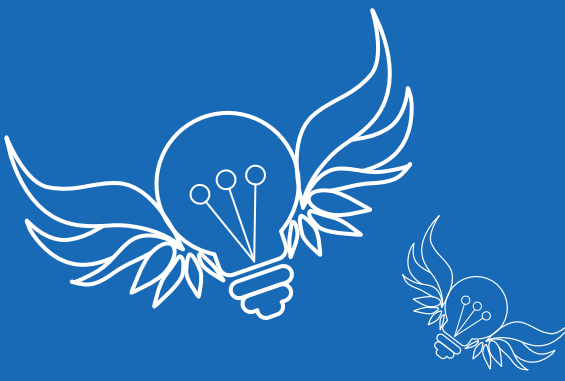
First Name \*

Last Name \*

Your Email Address \*



## FURTHER READING



Adaptive Web Design (2nd Edition) by Aaron Gustafson

<https://adaptivewebdesign.info/>

An Extensive Guide To Web Form Usability by Justin Mifsud

<https://www.smashingmagazine.com/2011/11/extensive-guide-web-form-usability/>

Web Form Design: Filling in the Blanks by Luke Wroblewski

[https://www.lukew.com/resources/web\\_form\\_design.asp](https://www.lukew.com/resources/web_form_design.asp)

The Definitive Guide to Form Label Positioning by Jessica Enders

<https://www.sitepoint.com/definitive-guide-form-label-positioning/>





# Thank you

