

The Overview and Comparison of HTML and XHTML

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HTML Example

```
<html>
```

```
<body>
```

```
<h1>My First Heading</h1>
```

```
<p>My first paragraph.</p>
```

```
</body>
```

```
</html>
```



What is HTML?

HTML is a language for describing web pages.

- HTML stands for Hyper Text Markup Language
- HTML is not a programming language, it is a **markup language**
- A markup language is a set of **markup tags**
- HTML uses **markup tags** to describe web pages



What is XHTML

- XHTML stands for EXtensible HyperText Markup Language
- XHTML is almost **identical** to HTML 4.01
- XHTML is a **stricter** and **cleaner** version of HTML
- XHTML is HTML defined as an **XML application**
- XHTML is a W3C Recommendation



- XHTML is compatible with HTML 4.01.
- All new browsers have support for XHTML.



Why XHTML?

- XHTML is a combination of HTML and XML (EXtensible Markup Language).
- XHTML consists of all the elements in HTML 4.01 combined with the syntax of XML.
- We have reached a point where many pages on the WWW contain "bad" HTML.
- The following HTML code will work fine if you view it in a browser, even if it does not follow the HTML rules:



Continue...

```
<html>
```

```
<head>
```

```
<title>This is bad HTML</title>
```

```
<body>
```

```
<h1>Bad HTML
```

```
</body>
```

[Bad html](#)

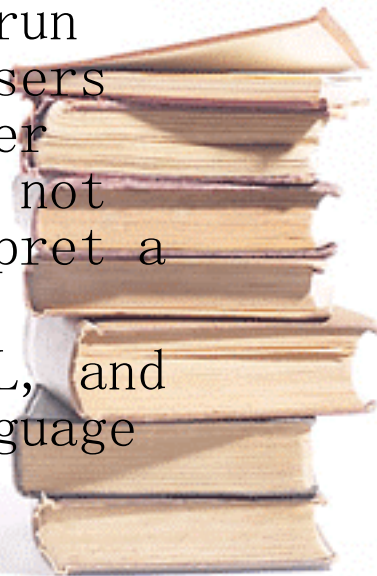
[b-xhtml](#)

[f-xhtml](#)



Continue...

- XML is a markup language where everything has to be marked up correctly, which results in "well-formed" documents.
- XML was designed to describe data and HTML was designed to display data.
- Today's market consists of different browser technologies, some browsers run Internet on computers, and some browsers run Internet on mobile phones or other small devices. The last-mentioned do not have the resources or power to interpret a "bad" markup language.
- Therefore – by combining HTML and XML, and their strengths, we got a markup language that is useful now and in the future – XHTML.



XHTML Syntax

Some XHTML Syntax Rules

- Attribute names must be in lower case
- Attribute values must be quoted
- Attribute minimization is forbidden
- The id attribute replaces the name attribute
- The XHTML DTD defines mandatory elements



XHTML Syntax

Attribute Names Must Be In Lower Case

This is wrong:

```
<table WIDTH="100%">
```

This is correct:

```
<table width="100%">
```



XHTML Syntax

Attribute Values Must Be Quoted

This is wrong:

```
<table width=100%>
```

This is correct:

```
<table width="100%">
```



XHTML Syntax

Attribute Minimization Is Forbidden

This is wrong:

```
<input checked>
```

```
<input disabled>
```

```
<option selected>
```

This is correct:

```
<input checked="checked" />
```

```
<input disabled="disabled" />
```

```
<option selected="selected" />
```



XHTML Syntax

The id Attribute Replaces The name Attribute

HTML 4.01 defines a name attribute for the elements a, applet, frame, iframe, img, and map. In XHTML the name attribute is deprecated. Use id instead.



Continue...

This is wrong:

```

```

This is correct:

```

```

Note: To interoperate with older browsers for a while, you should use both name and id, with identical attribute values, like this:

```

```

IMPORTANT Compatibility Note:

To make your XHTML compatible with today's browsers, you should add an extra space before the "/" symbol.

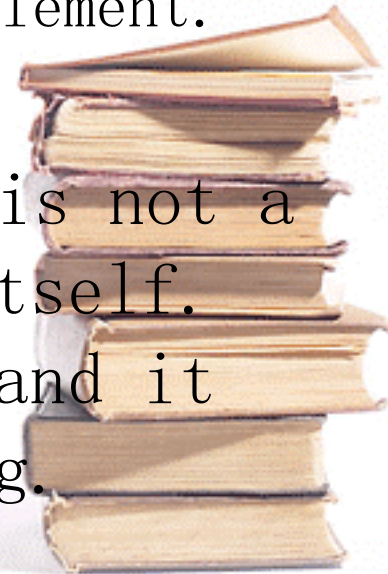


XHTML Syntax

Mandatory XHTML Elements

All XHTML documents must have a DOCTYPE declaration. The html, head and body elements must be present, and the title must be present inside the head element.

Note: The DOCTYPE declaration is not a part of the XHTML document itself. It is not an XHTML element, and it should not have a closing tag.



Continue...

This is a minimum XHTML document template:

```
<!DOCTYPE Doctype goes here>  
<htmlxmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml">  
  <head>  
    <title>Title goes here</title>  
  </head>  
  
  <body>  
    </body>  
  
</html>
```



XHTML DTD

<!DOCTYPE> Is Mandatory

An XHTML document consists of three main parts:

- * the DOCTYPE declaration
- * the <head> section
- * the <body> section



Continue...

The basic document structure is:

```
<!DOCTYPE ... >
```

```
<html>
```

```
<head>
```

```
<title>... </title>
```

```
</head>
```

```
<body> ... </body>
```

```
</html>
```



Continue...

This is a simple (minimal) XHTML document:

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

<html>
<head>
<title>simple document</title>
</head>
<body>
<p>a simple paragraph</p>
</body>
</html>
```

el



Continue...

Document Type Definitions (DTD)

- * A DTD specifies the syntax of a web page in SGML
- * DTDs are used by SGML applications, such as HTML, to specify rules for documents of a particular type, including a set of elements and entity declarations
- * An XHTML DTD describes in precise, computer-readable language, the allowed syntax of XHTML markup

There are three XHTML DTDs:

- * STRICT
- * TRANSITIONAL
- * FRAMESET



Continue...

- XHTML 1.0 Strict
- `<!DOCTYPE html`
- `PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Strict//EN"`
- `"http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-strict.dtd">`
- Use the strict DOCTYPE when you want really clean markup, free of presentational clutter. Use together with CSS.



Continue...

- [XHTML 1.0 Transitional](#)
- `<!DOCTYPE html`
- `PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Transitional//EN"`
- `"http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-transitional.dtd">`
- Use the transitional DOCTYPE when you want to still use HTML's presentational features.



Continue...

- XHTML 1.0 Frameset
- `<!DOCTYPE html`
- `PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Frameset//EN"`
- `"http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-frameset.dtd">`
- Use the frameset DOCTYPE when you want to use HTML Frames to split the web page into two or more frames.



XHTML vs HTML

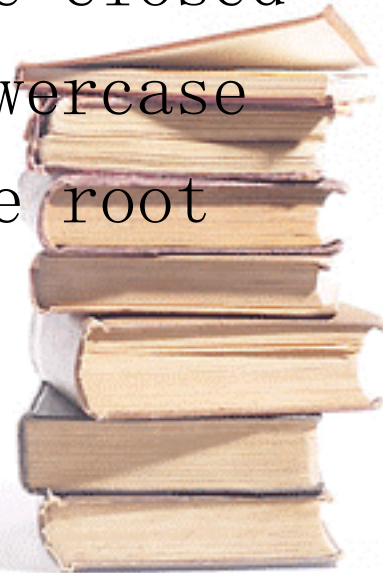
- You can prepare yourself for XHTML by starting to write strict HTML.
- HTML is the antecedent technology to XHTML



XHTML vs HTML

The Most Important Differences:

- XHTML elements must be properly nested
- XHTML elements must always be closed
- XHTML elements must be in lowercase
- XHTML documents must have one root element



XHTML vs HTML

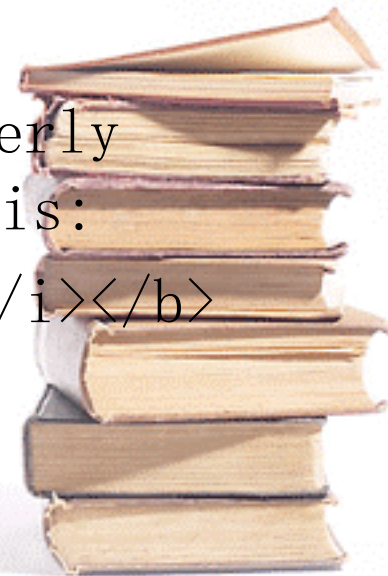
XHTML Elements Must Be Properly Nested

In HTML, some elements can be improperly nested within each other, like this:

```
<b><i>This text is bold and italic</b></i>
```

In XHTML, all elements must be properly nested within each other, like this:

```
<b><i>This text is bold and italic</i></b>
```



XHTML vs HTML

This is wrong:

```
<ul>  
  <li>Coffee</li>  
  <li>Tea  
    <ul>  
      <li>Black tea</li>  
      <li>Green tea</li>    </ul>  
      <li>Milk</li>  
</ul>
```



XHTML vs HTML

This is correct:

```
<ul>  
  <li>Coffee</li>  
  <li>Tea  
    <ul>  
      <li>Black tea</li>  
      <li>Green tea</li>  
    </ul>  
  </li>  
  <li>Milk</li>  
</ul>
```



XHTML vs HTML

XHTML Elements Must Always Be Closed

Non-empty elements must have an end tag.

This is wrong:

```
<p>This is a paragraph
```

```
<p>This is another paragraph
```

This is correct:

```
<p>This is a paragraph</p>
```

```
<p>This is another paragraph</p>
```



XHTML vs HTML

- Empty Elements Must Also Be Closed
- Empty elements must either have an end tag or the start tag must end with `/>`.

This is wrong:

A break: `
`

A horizontal rule: `<hr>`

An image: ``

This is correct:

A break: `
`

A horizontal rule: `<hr />`

An image: ``



XHTML vs HTML

XHTML Elements Must Be In Lower Case

The XHTML specification defines that the tag names and attributes need to be lower case.

This is wrong:

```
<BODY>
```

```
<P>This is a paragraph</P>
```

```
</BODY>
```

This is correct:

```
<body>
```

```
<p>This is a paragraph</p>
```

```
</body>
```



XHTML vs HTML

XHTML Documents Must Have One Root Element

All XHTML elements must be nested within the `<html>` root element. All other elements can have sub (children) elements. Sub elements must be in pairs and correctly nested within their parent element. The basic document structure is:

```
<html>
```

```
<head> ... </head>
```

```
<body> ... </body>
```

```
</html>
```



Thank You! ☺

