

Chapter 24: Void Elements

Not all HTML tags are of the same structure. While most elements require an opening tag, a closing tag, and contents, some elements - known as void elements - only require an opening tag as they themselves do not contain any elements. This topic explains and demonstrates the proper usage of void elements in HTML

Section 24.1: Void elements

HTML 4.01/XHTML 1.0 Strict includes the following void elements:

- `area` - clickable, defined area in an image
- `base` - specifies a base URL from which all links base
- `br` - line break
- `col` - column in a table [deprecated]
- `hr` - horizontal rule (line)
- `img` - image
- `input` - field where users enter data
- `link` - links an external resource to the document
- `meta` - provides information about the document
- `param` - defines parameters for plugins

HTML 5 standards include all non-deprecated tags from the previous list and

- `command` - represents a command users can invoke [obsolete]
- `keygen` - facilitates public key generation for web certificates [deprecated]
- `source` - specifies media sources for picture, audio, and video elements

The example below does **not** include void elements:

```
<div>
  <a href="http://stackoverflow.com/">
    <h3>Click here to visit <i>Stack Overflow!</i></h3>
  </a>
  <button onclick="alert('Hello!');">Say Hello!</button>
  <p>My favorite language is <b>HTML</b>. Here are my others:</p>
  <ol>
    <li>CSS</li>
    <li>JavaScript</li>
    <li>PHP</li>
  </ol>
</div>
```

Notice how every element has an opening tag, a closing tag, and text or other elements inside the opening and closing tags. Void tags however, are shown in the example below:

```

<br>
<hr>
<input type="number" placeholder="Enter your favorite number">
```

With the exception of the `img` tag, all of these void elements have only an opening tag. The `img` tag, unlike any other tag, has a self closing `/` before the greater than sign of the opening tag. It is best practice to have a space before the slash.