



HTML

CSS

MORE ▼



# HTML and XHTML

[< Previous](#)[Next >](#)

XHTML is HTML written as XML.

## What Is XHTML?

- XHTML stands for **EX**tensible **HyperText Markup Language**
- XHTML is almost identical to HTML
- XHTML is stricter than HTML
- XHTML is HTML defined as an XML application
- XHTML is supported by all major browsers

## Why XHTML?

Many pages on the internet contain "bad" HTML.

This HTML code works fine in most browsers (even if it does not follow the HTML rules):

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

<body>
  <h1>Bad HTML
  <p>This is a paragraph
</body>
```

Today's market consists of different browser technologies. Some browsers run on computers, and some browsers run on mobile phones or other small devices. Smaller devices often lack the resources or power to interpret "bad" markup.

XML is a markup language where documents must be marked up correctly (be "well-formed").

If you want to study XML, please read our [XML tutorial](#).

By combining the strengths of HTML and XML, XHTML was developed.

XHTML is HTML redesigned as XML.

---

## The Most Important Differences from HTML:

### Document Structure

- XHTML DOCTYPE is **mandatory**
- The xmlns attribute in <html> is **mandatory**
- <html>, <head>, <title>, and <body> are **mandatory**

### XHTML Elements

- 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 Attributes

- Attribute names must be in **lower case**
- Attribute values must be **quoted**
- Attribute minimization is **forbidden**

---

## <!DOCTYPE ....> Is Mandatory

An XHTML document must have an XHTML DOCTYPE declaration.

A complete list of all the XHTML Doctypes is found in our HTML Tags Reference.

The <html>, <head>, <title>, and <body> elements must also be present, and the xmlns attribute in <html> must specify the xml namespace for the document.

This example shows an XHTML document with a minimum of required tags:

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

<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml">

  <head>
    <title>Title of document</title>
  </head>

  <body>
    some content
  </body>

</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 Elements Must Always Be Closed

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>
```

## Empty Elements Must Also Be Closed

This is wrong:

```
A break: <br>  
A horizontal rule: <hr>  
An image: 
```

This is correct:

```
A break: <br />  
A horizontal rule: <hr />  
An image: 
```

## XHTML Elements Must Be In 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 Attribute Names Must Be In Lower Case

This is wrong:

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

This is correct:

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

## Attribute Values Must Be Quoted

This is wrong:

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

This is correct:

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

## Attribute Minimization Is Forbidden

Wrong:

```
<input type="checkbox" name="vehicle" value="car" checked />
```

Correct:

```
<input type="checkbox" name="vehicle" value="car" checked="checked" />
```

Wrong:

```
<input type="text" name="lastname" disabled />
```

Correct:

```
<input type="text" name="lastname" disabled="disabled" />
```

## How to Convert from HTML to XHTML

1. Add an XHTML <!DOCTYPE> to the first line of every page
2. Add an xmlns attribute to the html element of every page
3. Change all element names to lowercase
4. Close all empty elements
5. Change all attribute names to lowercase
6. Quote all attribute values

## Validate HTML With The W3C Validator

Put your web address in the box below:

[< Previous](#)[Next >](#)

---

## COLOR PICKER



## HOW TO

- Tabs
- Dropdowns
- Accordions
- Convert Weights
- Animated Buttons
- Side Navigation
- Top Navigation
- Modal Boxes
- Progress Bars

Parallax  
Login Form  
HTML Includes  
Google Maps  
Range Sliders  
Tooltips  
Slideshow  
Filter List  
Sort List

SHARE



CERTIFICATES

HTML, CSS, JavaScript, PHP, jQuery, Bootstrap and XML.

[Read More »](#)





## Top 10 Tutorials

HTML Tutorial  
CSS Tutorial  
JavaScript Tutorial  
W3.CSS Tutorial  
Bootstrap Tutorial  
SQL Tutorial  
PHP Tutorial  
jQuery Tutorial  
Angular Tutorial  
How To Tutorial

## Top 10 References

HTML Reference  
CSS Reference  
JavaScript Reference  
W3.CSS Reference  
Bootstrap Reference  
SQL Reference  
PHP Reference  
HTML Colors  
jQuery Reference  
AngularJS Reference

## Top 10 Examples

HTML Examples  
CSS Examples  
JavaScript Examples  
W3.CSS Examples  
Bootstrap Examples  
HTML DOM Examples  
PHP Examples  
jQuery Examples  
Angular Examples  
XML Examples

## Web Certificates

HTML Certificate  
CSS Certificate  
JavaScript Certificate  
jQuery Certificate  
PHP Certificate  
Bootstrap Certificate  
XML Certificate

---

W3Schools is optimized for learning, testing, and training. Examples might be simplified to improve reading and basic understanding. Tutorials, references, and examples are constantly reviewed to avoid errors, but we cannot warrant full correctness of all content. While using this site, you agree to have read and accepted our terms of use, cookie and privacy policy. Copyright 1999-2018 by Refsnes Data. All Rights Reserved.

