

- HTML References
- HTML by Alphabet
- HTML by Category
- HTML Browser Support
- HTML Attributes
- HTML Global Attributes
- HTML Events
- HTML Doctypes
- HTML URL Encode
- HTML Language Codes
- HTML Country Codes
- HTTP Messages
- HTTP Methods
- PX to EM Converter
- Keyboard Shortcuts

HTML Tags

- <!-->
- <!DOCTYPE>
- <a>
- <abbr>
- <acronym>
- <address>
- <applet>
- <area>
- <article>
- <aside>
- <audio>
- <b>
- <base>
- <basefont>
- <bdi>
- <bdo>
- <big>
- <blockquote>
- <body>
- <br>
- <button>
- <canvas>
- <caption>
- <center>
- <cite>
- <code>
- <col>
- <colgroup>
- <data>
- <datalist>
- <dd>
- <del>
- <details>
- <dfn>
- <dialog>
- <dir>
- <div>
- <dl>
- <dt>
- <em>
- <embed>
- <fieldset>
- <figcaption>
- <figure>
- <font>
- <footer>
- <form>
- <frame>
- <frameset>
- <h1> - <h6>
- <head>
- <header>
- <hr>
- <html>
- <i>
- <iframe>
- <img>
- <input>
- <ins>
- <kbd>
- <label>
- <legend>
- <li>
- <link>
- <main>
- <map>
- <mark>
- <meta>
- <meter>
- <nav>
- <noframes>
- <noscript>
- <object>
- <ol>
- <optgroup>
- <option>
- <output>
- <p>
- <param>
- <picture>
- <pre>
- <progress>
- <q>
- <rp>
- <rt>
- <ruby>
- <s>
- <samp>
- <script>
- <section>
- <select>
- <small>
- <source>
- <span>
- <strike>
- <strong>
- <style>
- <sub>
- <summary>
- <sup>
- <svg>
- <table>
- <tbody>
- <td>
- <template>
- <textarea>
- <tfoot>
- <th>
- <thead>
- <time>
- <title>
- <tr>
- <track>
- <tt>
- <u>
- <ul>
- <var>
- <video>
- <wbr>

W3schools

BUILD YOUR CAREER. GET FULL ACCESS. SAVE 770\$

Start today

HTML <!DOCTYPE>

< Previous

Next >

The HTML Document Type

All HTML documents must start with a `<!DOCTYPE>` declaration.

The declaration is not an HTML tag. It is an "information" to the browser about what document type to expect.

In HTML5, the `<!DOCTYPE>` declaration is simple:

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
```

In older documents (HTML 4 or XHTML), the declaration is more complicated because the declaration must refer to a DTD (Document Type Definition).

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

```
<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.1//EN"
"http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml11.dtd">
```

You can read more about document types in the `<!DOCTYPE>` reference.

Valid HTML Elements in Different DOCTYPEs

Tag	HTML 5	HTML 4	XHTML
<a>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<abbr>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<acronym>	No	Yes	Yes
<address>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<applet>	No	Yes	No
<area>	Yes	Yes	No
<article>	Yes	No	No
<aside>	Yes	No	No
<audio>	Yes	No	No
<b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<base>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<basefont>	No	Yes	No
<bdi>	Yes	No	No
<bdo>	Yes	Yes	No
<big>	No	Yes	Yes
<blockquote>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<body>	Yes	Yes	Yes
 	Yes	Yes	Yes
<button>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<canvas>	Yes	No	No
<caption>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<center>	No	Yes	No
<cite>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<code>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<col>	Yes	Yes	No
<colgroup>	Yes	Yes	No
<data>	Yes	No	No
<datalist>	Yes	No	No
<dd>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<del>	Yes	Yes	No
<details>	Yes	No	No
<dfn>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<dialog>	Yes	No	No
<dir>	No	Yes	No
<div>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<dl>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<dt>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<em>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<embed>	Yes	No	No
<fieldset>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<figcaption>	Yes	No	No
<figure>	Yes	No	No
<font>	No	Yes	No
<footer>	Yes	No	No
<form>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<frameset>	No	Yes	No
<h1> to <h6>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<head>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<header>	Yes	No	No
<hr>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<html>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<iframe>	Yes	Yes	No
<img>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<input>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<ins>	Yes	Yes	No
<kbd>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<label>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<legend>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<li>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<link>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<main>	Yes	No	No
<map>	Yes	Yes	No
<mark>	Yes	No	No
<meta>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<meter>	Yes	No	No
<nav>	Yes	No	No
<noframes>	No	Yes	No
<noscript>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<object>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<ol>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<optgroup>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<option>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<output>	Yes	No	No
<p>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<param>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<picture>	Yes	No	No
<pre>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<progress>	Yes	No	No
<q>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<rp>	Yes	No	No
<rt>	Yes	No	No
<ruby>	Yes	No	No
<s>	Yes	Yes	No
<samp>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<script>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<section>	Yes	No	No
<select>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<small>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<source>	Yes	No	No
<span>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<strike>	No	Yes	No
<strong>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<style>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<sub>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<summary>	Yes	No	No
<sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<table>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<tbody>	Yes	Yes	No
<td>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<template>	Yes	No	No
<textarea>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<tfoot>	Yes	Yes	No
<th>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<thead>	Yes	Yes	No
<time>	Yes	No	No
<title>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<tr>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<track>	Yes	No	No
<tt>	No	Yes	Yes
<u>	Yes	Yes	No
<ul>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<var>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<video>	Yes	No	No
<wbr>	Yes	No	No

< Previous

Log in to track progress

Next >

W3schools

BUILD YOUR CAREER. GET FULL ACCESS. SAVE 770\$

Start today

Build your career. Get Full Access.

Lifelong access to all W3Schools courses and certifications!

Start today

W3schools

SAVE 770\$

Top Tutorials

HTML Tutorial

CSS Tutorial

JavaScript Tutorial

How To Tutorial

SQL Tutorial

Python Tutorial

W3.CSS Tutorial

Bootstrap Tutorial

PHP Tutorial

Java Tutorial

C++ Tutorial

jQuery Tutorial

Top References

HTML Reference

CSS Reference

JavaScript Reference

SQL Reference

Python Reference

W3.CSS Reference

Bootstrap Reference

PHP Reference

HTML Colors

Java Reference

C++ Reference

jQuery Reference

Top Examples

HTML Examples

CSS Examples

JavaScript Examples

How To Examples

SQL Examples

Python Examples

W3.CSS Examples

Bootstrap Examples

PHP Examples

Java Examples

XML Examples

jQuery Examples

Get Certified

HTML Certificate

CSS Certificate

JavaScript Certificate

Front End Certificate

SQL Certificate

Python Certificate

PHP Certificate

jQuery Certificate

Java Certificate

C++ Certificate

C# Certificate

XML Certificate