# HTML5 Style Guide and Coding Conventions

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## **1. HTML Coding Conventions**

* Web developers are often uncertain about the coding style and syntax to use in HTML.
* Between 2000 and 2010, many web developers converted from HTML to XHTML.
* With XHTML, developers were forced to write valid and "well-formed" code.
* HTML5 is a bit more sloppy when it comes to code validation.

## **2. Be Smart and Future Proof**

* A consistent use of style makes it easier for others to understand your HTML.
* In the future, programs like XML readers may want to read your HTML.
* Using a well-formed-"close to XHTML" syntax can be smart.

## **3. Use Correct Document Type**

Always declare the document type as the first line in your document:

<!DOCTYPE html>

If you want consistency with lowercase tags, you can use:

<!doctype html>

## **4. Use Lower Case Element Names**

HTML5 allows mixing uppercase and lowercase letters in element names.

We recommend using lowercase element names because:

* Mixing uppercase and lowercase names is bad
* Developers normally use lowercase names (as in XHTML)
* Lowercase look cleaner
* Lowercase are easier to write

## **5. Close All HTML Elements**

In HTML5, you don't have to close all elements (for example the <p> element).

We recommend closing all HTML elements.

## **6. Quote Attribute Values**

HTML5 allows attribute values without quotes.

We recommend quoting attribute values because:

* Mixing uppercase and lowercase values is bad
* Quoted values are easier to read
* You MUST use quotes if the value contains spaces

## **7. Image Attributes**

Always add the alt attribute to images. This attribute is important when the image for some reason cannot be displayed. Also, always define image width and height. It reduces flickering because the browser can reserve space for the image before loading.

## **8. Spaces and Equal Signs**

HTML5 allows spaces around equal signs. But space-less is easier to read and groups entities better together.

<link rel="stylesheet" href="styles.css">

## **9. Avoid Long Code Lines**

When using an HTML editor, it is inconvenient to scroll right and left to read the HTML code.

Try to avoid code lines longer than 80 characters.

## **7. Omitting <html> and <body>?**

* In HTML5, the <html> tag and the <body> tag can be omitted.
* However, we do not recommend omitting the <html> and the <body> tag.
* Declaring a language is important for accessibility applications (screen readers) and search engines.
* Omitting <html> or <body> can crash DOM and XML software.
* Omitting <body> can produce errors in older browsers (IE9).

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## **8. Meta Data**

The <title> element is required in HTML5. Make the title as meaningful as possible:

<title>HTML5 Syntax and Coding Style</title>

To ensure proper interpretation and correct search engine indexing, both the language and the character encoding should be defined as early as possible in a document:

## **9. Setting The Viewport**

HTML5 introduced a method to let web designers take control over the viewport, through the <meta> tag.

The viewport is the user's visible area of a web page. It varies with the device, and will be smaller on a mobile phone than on a computer screen.

You should include the following <meta> viewport element in all your web pages:

<meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">

## **10. File Extensions**

* HTML files should have a .html or .htm extension.
* CSS files should have a .css extension.
* JavaScript files should have a .js extension.

## **11. Differences Between .htm and .html**

* There is no difference between the .htm and .html extensions. Both will be treated as HTML by any web browser or web server.
* The differences are cultural:
* .htm "smells" of early DOS systems where the system limited the extensions to 3 characters.
* .html "smells" of Unix operating systems that did not have this limitation.

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## **11.1 Technical Differences**

* When a URL does not specify a filename (like https://www.w3schools.com/css/), the server returns a default filename. Common default filenames are index.html, index.htm, default.html and default.htm.
* If your server is configured only with "index.html" as default filename, your file must be named "index.html", not "index.htm."
* However, servers can be configured with more than one default filename, and normally you can set up as many default filenames as needed.
* Anyway, the full extension for HTML files is .html, and there's no reason it should not be used.

**Reference**

**https://www.w3schools.com/html/html5\_syntax.asp**