

## Self-Closing Tags

A **self-closing tag** (also sometimes referred to as a **void element** or an **empty element**) is an HTML element that only has an opening tag.

The format for coding self-closing tags is to enclose the HTML element in angle brackets. Adding an ending slash— with or without an ending forward slash— after the element is optional. For example, the following are all acceptable ways to code a self-closing tag.

### Acceptable Ways to Code Self-Closing Tags

- <HTML element>
- <HTML element/>
- <HTML element />

For example, let's look at the three ways that the self-closing tag "br" can be coded in HTML.

```
1 <!DOCTYPE html>
2 <html>
3 <body>
4 <br>
5 <br/>
6 <br />
7 </body>
8 </html>
```

The following table lists HTML self-closing tags and their functions: (Note: this course does not cover the use of all of these tags. You are encouraged to visit Mozilla's [HTML Element Reference](#) to learn more.)

HTML Self-Closing Tags	
Element	Function
<area>	The <area> tag defines an area inside an image-map and is always always nested inside a <map> tag.
<base>	The <base> tag is placed inside the <head /> element and is used to define the base URL/target for all relative URLs in a document. There can only be <i>one</i> base element in an HTML document.
 	The   tag inserts a single line break.
<col>	The <col> tag defines the properties for each column within a <colgroup> element. This tag is particularly useful for applying styles to entire columns instead of entering them repeatedly for each cell in a table.
<embed>	The <embed> tag specifies a container for interactive content or an external application.
<hr>	The <hr> tag is used to separate content on an HTML page. The <hr> tag is commonly used to highlight a change or thematic break in content. Often defines a thematic break in an HTML page (e.g. a shift of topic).

<img>	The <img /> tag defines a holding space for an image in an HTML page. The <img /> tag requires two attributes: src and alt.
<input>	The <input> tag are placed within a <form> and define an input field where users can enter data on an HTML page. The properties of the <input> tag are varied depending on the type of attribute that is paired with the input element.
<link>	The <link> tag is only placed in the head section of an HTML document, and specifies a link to external style sheets. The <link> tag can appear any number of times.
<meta>	The <meta>tag specifies the metadata about the HTML document. Metadata is used by browsers and contains information on how to display content or reload a page, keywords that can be used by search engines, or other web-related services. Metadata is not visible on the page.
<param>	The <param> tag defines the parameters for plugins placed within an <object> element.
<source>	The <source> tag specifies alternative video/audio/image files for media (audio, image, video) elements within a page so the browser can choose one based on the media type that the browser supports.
<track>	The<track> tag defines text tracks (closed-captioning or files subtitles) that should be visible when audio and/or video media elements are playing.
<wbr>	The <wbr> tag, stands for "Word Break Opportunity" and defines where in line of text it would be ok to add a line-break. For example, if you are concerned a browser might break up text in an award location, the <wbr> tag may be used to add a word break opportunity.

## Review Checkpoint

To test your understanding of the content presented in this assignment, please click on the Questions icon below. If you have trouble answering any of the questions presented here, you are always free to return to this or any assignment to re-read the material.



1. Which of the following choices is **NOT** a self-closing tag in HTML?

a. <b>

**Correct. The <b> tag is not a self-closing and proper HTML syntax requires the use of a closing tag.**

b. <br>

**Incorrect. Try again.**

c. <hr>

***Incorrect. Try again.***

d. All of the above are self-closing tags

***Incorrect. Try again.***

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