

# Theory: Tables

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When we need to present some information on a web page as a set of rows and columns, like in the Excel, we can use a special `<table>` tag. In doing so, we can not only create a table, but also make captions, and even specify the borders. Let’s look at the main tags and attributes used to work with tables.

## §1. Table creation

The HTML table is created with the `<table>` tag. Inside this tag, the elements of a table should be placed. Among these elements the two most important are:

- the `<tr>` tag that creates a row in a table;
- the `<td>` tag that creates the table cells.

Knowing these tags, you can already create a simple table:

```
1 <table>
2   <tr>
3     <td>Tomato soup</td>
4     <td>$3.95</td>
5   </tr>
6   <tr>
7     <td>French onion soup</td>
8     <td>$4.49</td>
9   </tr>
10 </table>
```

This is what your table will look like if you open it in your browser:

Tomato soup	\$3.95
French onion soup	\$4.49

The result looks minimalistic, but you can add more details, for example, the headers for the rows.

## §2. Table header cell

The `<th>` tag is used to create a table header cell for rows or columns. The text inside this tag is bold and centered. Let’s try to write a table header cell for your table.

```
1 <table>
2   <tr>
3     <th>Main dishes</th>
4     <th>Price</th>
5   </tr>
6   <tr>
7     <td>Tomato soup</td>
8     <td>$3.95</td>
9   </tr>
10  <tr>
11    <td>French onion soup</td>
12    <td>$4.49</td>
13  </tr>
14 </table>
```

The result should be the following:

Current topic:

Tables

Stage 3

Topic depends on:

✗ HTML page structure

Stage 1

Topic is required for:

Tables: Merging cells

...

Visibility

Stage 3

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Main dishes	Price
Tomato soup	\$3.95
French onion soup	\$4.49

### \$3. Caption

In addition to a table header for rows, you can add a caption to the table itself. For this you need to use the `<caption>` tag. This tag is usually added after `<table>`, outside a row or cell:

```
1 <table>
2   <caption>Restaurant Menu</caption>
3   <tr>
4     <th>Main dishes</th>
5     <th>Price</th>
6   </tr>
7   <tr>
8     <td>Tomato soup</td>
9     <td>$3.95</td>
10  </tr>
11  <tr>
12    <td>French onion soup</td>
13    <td>$4.49</td>
14  </tr>
15 </table>
```

Now the table should look like this with a centered caption:

Restaurant Menu	
Main dishes	Price
Tomato soup	\$3.95
French onion soup	\$4.49

### \$4. Table borders

By default, the table and its cells have no visible borders, but you can set them using the `border` attribute. Specify as a value any positive integer that will mean the desired width of the border in pixels. For instance:

```
1 <table border="1">
2   <tr>
3     <th>Main dishes</th>
4     <th>Price</th>
5   </tr>
6   <tr>
7     <td>Tomato soup</td>
8     <td>$3.95</td>
9   </tr>
10  <tr>
11    <td>French onion soup</td>
12    <td>$4.49</td>
13  </tr>
14 </table>
```

In the code above, we've set a border width of 1 pixel for the table:

Main dishes	Price
Tomato soup	\$3.95
French onion soup	\$4.49


Automatically, the border also applies to all the cells in your table.

Setting a border using an HTML attribute is not always a good idea, but we’re showing you this option so that you could better understand what the tags are all about. This would be very helpful when you get to the next topic. It’s good practice to set a border for table elements using CSS, we’ll learn how to do that in this track.

It is interesting to know that in the past, developers used borderless tables to build sites. Creating tables helped divide the content of a web page into rows and columns. Now this practice is outdated, and CSS is used for dividing the content and tables are used for their intended purpose.

That’s all for today. There is still a lot of interesting and useful information about working with tables, but it is better to get it in small portions. Let’s practice!

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