

# Theory: Code style

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It's necessary to follow the rules of the code style to improve the quality of the code and to facilitate teamwork. In this topic we are going to look at a pretty long list of rules, all of them equally important. So let's get to it!

Note that these rules are not actually '*the rules*'. They are *recommendations* from Google. There exist other code style guides.

## §1. General rules

- Use `UTF-8`. Specify it with `<meta charset="utf-8">` in `<head></head>`. CSS files use `UTF-8` by default, so don't bother specifying it for your stylesheets.

Cool:

```
1 <head>
2   <meta charset="utf-8">
3   <title>Code style</title>
4 </head>
```

Not cool:

```
1 <head>
2   <meta charset="windows-1251">
3   <title>Code style</title>
4 </head>
```

- Provide the explanations for your code if necessary. For example, if your web page contains a lot of sections, your colleagues will thank you for adding comments so they don't have to scroll up and down to find a certain section.

Cool:

Current topic:

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✗ `Tags and attributes` <sup>Stage 1</sup> ...

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```
1  <!-- About section -->
2  <div id="about">
3      ...
4  </div>
5  <!-- End of about -->
6
7  <!-- Catalog section -->
8  <div id="catalog">
9      ...
10 </div>
11
12 <!-- End of catalog -->
13
14
15 <!-- Portfolio section -->
16
17 <div id="portfolio">
18     ...
19
20 </div>
21
22 <!-- End of portfolio -->
23
24
25 <!-- Contacts section -->
26
27 <div id="contacts">
28     ...
29
30 </div>
31
32 <!-- End of contacts -->
```

Not cool:

```
1  <div id="about">
2      ...
3  </div>
4  <div id="catalog">
5      ...
6  </div>
7  <div id="portfolio">
8      ...
9  </div>
10
11 <div id="contacts">
12     ...
13
14 </div>
```

- Don't forget to use `alt=". . ."` attribute. It might contain a short but meaningful text for images and some information for videos.

Cool:

```
1  
```

Not cool:

```
1  
```

## §2. Formatting rules

- Don't use tabulation and don't mix it with spaces. Two spaces are always enough.

Cool:

```

1  <ul>
2    <li>HTML</li>
3    <li>CSS</li>
4  </ul>

```

Not cool:

```

1  <ul>
2    <li>HTML</li>
3      <li>CSS</li>
4  </ul>

```

- For every block element start a new line and don't forget about indents for every child element.

Cool:

```

1  <table>
2    <thead>
3      <tr>
4        <th scope="col">Income</th>
5        <th scope="col">Taxes</th>
6      </tr>
7    </thead>
8    <tbody>
9      <tr>
10         <td>$5.00</td>
11         <td>$4.50</td>
12      </tr>
13    </tbody>
14  </table>

```

Mega Not Cool:

```

1  <table>
2    <thead><tr><th scope="col">Income</th><th scope="col">Taxes</th></tr>
</thead>
3    <tbody>
4      <tr>
5        <td>$5.00</td>
6        <td>$4.50</td>
7      </tr>
8    </tbody>
9  </table>

```

- Always use lower case. Always. There's no reasonable explanation for using uppercase or all caps.

Cool:

```

1  

```

Not cool:

```

1  <IMG SRC="assets/images/01.jpg" ALT="Image">

```

- Avoid spaces at the end of the lines. It's a very simple rule.

Cool:

```

1  <p>Text.</p>

```

Not cool:

```

1  <p>Text </p>

```

- Use double quotes instead of single quotes in attribute values.

Cool:

```
1 <div class="example">
2   ...
3 </div>
```

Not cool:

```
1 <div class='example'>
2   ...
3 </div>
```

### §3. Validity

Check your code several times to avoid mistakes such as opening/closing tags mismatch, extra characters, etc.

Each browser fixes these mistakes before showing a page to the user, but different browsers have different solutions. This might increase page loading time, make the page look differently on different devices, or hide some content from the user. That’s why validity is so important.

You can use [validators](#) for this.

Cool:

```
1 <!DOCTYPE html>
2 <meta charset="utf-8">
3 <title>HTML</title>
4 <article>HTML rules the world.</article>
```

Not cool:

```
1 <title>HTML</title>
2 <article>HTML rules the world.
```

### §4. Summary

Code style is important in any programming language. Yes, there are rules of syntax, but it’s not enough to make the code easily understandable for whoever is reading it. That’s why you should consider all the tips above even though they are optional.

The list is long but quite easy to remember. Just don’t forget to specify the encoding, leave comments, add alt="" attribute, and use only lower case in tags. And don’t mess around with spaces and indents. Simple, right?

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