

Spanning Rows and Columns

In this lesson we see how to make use of spanning rows and columns in HTML.

WE'LL COVER THE FOLLOWING



- Listing 3-11: Using `rowspan` and `colspan`

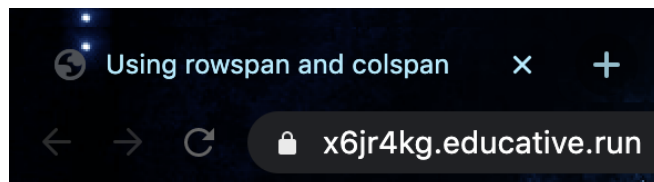


`<rowspan>` and `<colspan>` in HTML5



Creating matrix-like tables is easy, but sometimes you need to create tables with a more complex layout. Two attributes of `<td>`, `colspan` and `rowspan`, allow you to specify the number of columns and rows a cell should span.

Let's assume you want to create a table as shown below:



North	12%	\$38.64m
Top 3		
Chicago		\$20.09m
Cleveland		\$12.24m
Minneapolis		\$3.53m
East	42%	\$135.24m
Top 3		
???		\$34.52m
		\$23.09m
		\$12.64m
South	27%	\$86.94m
West	19%	\$61.18m

A table with colspan and rowspan attributes

This table contains twelve rows and three columns. When you set the `colspan` attribute of `<td>`, the cell you specify spans the number of specified columns. When you set the `rowspan` attribute of `<td>`, the corresponding cell spans the number of specified rows.

So, to define the table in the image above, you need to use the markup shown in Listing 3-11 below:

Listing 3-11: Using `rowspan` and `colspan`

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
  <title>Using rowspan and colspan</title>
</head>
<body>
  <table border="1">
    <!-- Row 1 -->
    <tr>
      <td>North</td>
      <td>12%</td>
      <td>$38.64m</td>
    </tr>
    <!-- Row 2 -->
    <tr><td colspan="3">Top 3</td></tr>
    <!-- Row 3 -->
    <tr>
      <td colspan="2">Chicago</td>
      <td>$20.09m</td>
    </tr>
```

```

</tr>
<!-- Row 4 -->
<tr>
  <td colspan="2">Cleveland</td>
  <td>$12.24m</td>
</tr>
<!-- Row 5 -->
<tr>
  <td colspan="2">Minneapolis</td>
  <td>$3.53m</td>
</tr>
<!-- Row 6 -->
<tr>
  <td>East</td>
  <td>42%</td>
  <td>$135.24m</td>
</tr>
<!-- Row 7 -->
<tr><td colspan="3">Top 3</td></tr>
<!-- Row 8 -->
<tr>
  <td rowspan="3" colspan="2">??</td>
  <td>$34.52m</td>
</tr>
<!-- Row 9 -->
<tr><td>$23.09m</td></tr>
<!-- Row 10 -->
<tr><td>$12.64m</td></tr>
<!-- Row 11 -->
<tr>
  <td>South</td>
  <td>27%</td>
  <td>$86.94m</td>
</tr>
<!-- Row 12 -->
<tr>
  <td>West</td>
  <td>19%</td>
  <td>$61.18m</td>
</tr>
</table>
</body>
</html>

```

The second and seventh row (the ones with “Top 3” text) specify `colspan="3"`, so the cell occupies the full row. The first cells of the third, fourth, and fifth rows use `colspan="2"` (each row specifies a second cell, too), and so the first cells takes up the space of the second column as well.

The **eighth row** specifies `rowspan="3"` and `colspan="2"`, so the cell with “???” text spans three rows (the eighth, ninth, and tenth rows), and two columns.

According to this definition, the eighth row has one more cell beside “???”, but the ninth and tenth rows have only one cell, as their first two columns are taken by the spanning “???” cell.

In the *next lesson*, we'll get into more detail of markup for table headers.