

Definitions of HTML Terms

HTML-5.com is an HTML User's Guide and quick reference of HTML elements and attributes for web developers who code HTML web pages, not only for HTML 5 but for HTML coding in general, with demos and examples of HTML code plus a cheat sheet for web developers. [TV Series & Actors and Actresses](#). Follow [TV Series](#) and [HTML 5](#) on Google+.

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An `<dfn>implied element</dfn>` is an element node in the DOM that did not explicitly appear in the serialized form of the document and therefore was assumed based on other HTML code.

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Definition of HTML "<dfn>anchor</dfn>"

An <dfn>anchor</dfn> in an HTML document is a named location (bookmark) that can be referenced by a [URL](#), usually coded in an [href](#) attribute or [src](#) attribute of an HTML tag. The location is named by the [id](#) attribute of the HTML tag at the target location. When a user clicks on the link, most browsers will automatically scroll a web page to the location of the target anchor on the page.

Changes in HTML 5

In previous versions of HTML, an [<a> tag](#) with a [name](#) attribute but no [href](#) was used for anchors in HTML code. In HTML 5, the [id](#) attribute for the target location can be coded on most HTML tags.

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Definition of HTML "<dfn>attribute</dfn>"

An <dfn>attribute</dfn> is a named [property](#) associated with an [element](#). In a marked-up document, attributes are coded in a starting tag or [standalone tag](#) between the element name and the tag's terminating [/>](#) or [>](#) delimiter. The code for an HTML attribute consists of the attribute name, an equal sign ([=](#)) and the value of the property enclosed in quotes.

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Definition of HTML "<dfn>block tag</dfn>" and "<dfn>block element</dfn>" (also known as "<dfn>block-level tags</dfn>" and "<dfn>block-level elements</dfn>")

Definition of <dfn>block tag</dfn>

Block tags are the [HTML tags](#) that are used to create blocks of text and other visual elements in the direction of flow of paragraphs on a page, which is from top to bottom in many languages. For example, the [<div> tag](#) is normally a block tag, in contrast to the [tag](#), which is normally an [inline tag](#). However, styles can be used to override a tag to make it a [display: block](#) tag.

Block tags in an HTML document mark the beginning and end of a block element.

Definition of <dfn>block element</dfn>

In the HTML content models, a block [element](#) consists of the starting and ending tags for [flow content](#) along with the [phrasing content](#) between them. Block elements are the HTML elements for blocks of text and other visual elements displayed in the direction of flow of paragraphs on a page, which is from top to bottom in many languages. For example, [div element](#) is normally a block element, in contrast to the [span element](#), which is normally an [inline element](#). However, styles can be used to override an element to make it a [display: block](#) element.

The beginning of each block element starts on a new line of the area of the page being filled. The margins before and after block elements can be used to control the spacing between paragraphs and other block elements.

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Definition of HTML "<dfn>boolean attribute</dfn>"

A `<dfn>boolean attribute</dfn>` is a property associated with an [element](#) that represents either a true or false value. In a [polyglot HTML document](#), a boolean attribute with a **true** value is coded with a value that matches the attribute name, as in `attribute="attribute"`. To indicate a **false** value the attribute should be completely omitted.

Note that the HTML 5 specifications explicitly state that:

```
<blockquote style="margin-top: 0"> The values "true" and "false" are not allowed on boolean attributes. </blockquote>
```

This is because browsers that look at the coded value for boolean attributes would treat the string `"false"` as *false* while browsers that only look for the presence or absence of the attribute would treat that code as *true*, resulting in very inconsistent behavior.

Note that `"true"` and `"false"` are valid values for some *non-boolean attributes*, in particular [enumerated attributes](#) such as the [draggable attribute](#).

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Definition of HTML "<dfn>child element</dfn>"

A `<dfn>child element</dfn>` is an element that is in the content of a parent [element](#). In the serialized form of an HTML document, the child elements are enclosed between the parent element's [start tag](#) and it's [end tag](#).

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Definition of HTML "<dfn>common attribute</dfn>"

`<dfn>Common attributes</dfn>` are attributes that can be coded on almost any HTML element. In HTML, they are [global attributes](#), but when being processed as pure XML, their names will be allocated in the [namespace partition](#) for element [local attributes](#). In the HTML 4 and XHTML DTDs these were also known as `<dfn>generic attributes</dfn>`.

The common HTML attributes include:

core attributes

[class](#), [id](#), [style](#) and [title](#)

internationalization attributes

[lang](#) and [dir](#)

event handling attributes

the [on... event attributes](#) for client-side dynamic script events

[accesskey](#), [contenteditable](#), [contextmenu](#), [data-*](#), [draggable](#), [dropzone](#), [hidden](#), [item...](#), [spellcheck](#), [tabindex](#)

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Definition of HTML "<dfn>content model</dfn>"

The <dfn>content model</dfn> of an [element](#) determines what type of content the element can contain between the element's starting and ending [tags](#). Most HTML elements either require [inner HTML](#) consisting of specific [child elements](#) or of one of three more general categories of content:

- [metadata content](#)
- [flow content](#)
- [phrasing content](#)

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Definition of HTML "<dfn>DOM</dfn>"

Definition of "<dfn>Document Object Model</dfn>"

The <dfn>Document Object Model</dfn> is a well-defined model for [SGML](#) and [XML](#) documents, which can be "marked up" with tags such as in HTML. While actual documents are often viewed by authors as text into which the markup tags have been inserted, the [DOM](#) focuses more on the [tags](#) themselves, which are represented in the model by [elements](#), and their content.

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Definition of HTML "<dfn>element</dfn>"

An <dfn id="dfn-element">element</dfn> is an object in the hierarchical model of a document. It always has an element name and may also have attributes and/or [child elements](#). The [difference between an element and a tag](#) is that an "element" is a more abstract representation of a [node](#) in the hierarchical structure of an HTML document that encompasses its [attributes](#), [child elements](#) and other content such as text and [CDATA sections](#). In an actual document, an element is explicitly represented by either a [start tag](#) and an <dfn>end tag</dfn> or <dfn>closing tag</dfn> enclosing its [child elements](#) and other content, if any, or simply by a [standalone tag](#) if it is a [void element](#), which never has any content. In some cases, an element is implied even when the corresponding tag does not appear in the document. A good example of this is the [tbody element](#), which is often an [implied element](#) between a [<table> tag](#) and a [<tr> table row tag](#).

An element has a set of named [property](#) values, which may come from [attributes](#) or may be assumed based on default values or other elements or [properties](#).

The term <dfn>element</dfn> is normally used when referring to the internal representation of an HTML object as a [node](#) in the document's hierarchical object model, encompassing all of its descendants. In contrast, the term [tag](#) typically refers to the mark up in the serialized form of an HTML document.

When referring to a [node](#), along with any descendants, within the hierarchical object model of the internal representation of an HTML document the term `<dfn>element</dfn>` is normally used and, on this site in particular, the element name will be shown without any delimiters ("`<`", "`>`", "`</`" or "`/>`"). Those characters will only be used when discussing [HTML tags](#), since they are used to delimit HTML code from other text in the serialized form of HTML documents.

Definition of HTML "`<dfn>element type</dfn>`"

The `<dfn>element type</dfn>` determines the meaning of a element, based on the element name, and what properties are valid for the element.

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Definition of HTML "`<dfn>embedded content</dfn>`"

Embedded content is created by the elements of HTML that reference external resources, such as external media (images, audio or video) and show them as seamless parts of the document containing those elements. The [tags](#) for [HTML elements](#) that create embedded content include:

- [<audio>](#)
- [<canvas>](#)
- [<embed>](#)
- [<iframe>](#)
- [](#)
- [<math>](#)
- [<object>](#)
- [<svg>](#)
- [<video>](#)

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Definition of "`<dfn>empty element</dfn>`"

An `<dfn>empty element</dfn>` is an [element](#) with just a start tag and an end tag, but no content other than possibly some [HTML comments](#) or white space between the tags.

Contrast with a [void element](#), which refers to the `<dfn>content model</dfn>` of an element and typically is coded with a self-closing start tag.

Both `<dfn>empty elements</dfn>` and [void elements](#) may have *content models* that are **empty**, indicating that they cannot contain any nested child elements or text nodes. All properties of an element with an `<dfn>empty content model</dfn>` must be coded as attributes.

Some browsers violate the rules for how to code [void elements](#) and empty elements. For example, Internet Explorer only processes `<link>` tags when coded with a separate start and end tag:

```
<link rel="shortcut icon" sizes="16x16" type="image/vnd.microsoft.icon">
```

→ `href="/favicon.ico"></link>`

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Definition of HTML "<dfn>enumerated attribute</dfn>"

An <dfn>enumerated attribute</dfn> is an [HTML attribute](#) whose value is restricted to a specific list of values, usually a fairly small number of keywords but sometimes non-alphabetic values such as digits or an empty string, which could be used as a synonym for the default value.

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Definition of HTML "<dfn>flow content</dfn>"

In the content tree that makes up the body of an HTML document, <dfn>flow content</dfn> is the content at the higher level, such as [paragraphs](#) and [lists](#), that is typically made up of [HTML block elements](#). The [phrasing content](#) at the lower level of the content tree is contained within the block-level elements that make up the flow content.

When the expected content of an HTML element is flow content, you can code either [flow content elements](#) or [phrasing content elements](#), with some occasional restrictions. On the other hand, [flow content elements](#) can *only* be used where [flow content is allowed](#).

See [Flow Content vs. Phrasing Content](#) for more information.

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Definition of "<dfn>fragment identifier</dfn>"

A <dfn>fragment identifier</dfn> is a string of characters that is frequently used to identify a specific location within an HTML page. In a URI, if the identifier contains any spaces or special characters, they must be escaped using [percent escape codes](#) as explained in the [URL-encoding tutorial](#).

Fragment identifiers are defined by RFC 2396 and in general can be appended to a URI to be used after the resource has been retrieved. For HTML documents, the browser will retrieve the document specified by the URI then automatically scroll the browser window if necessary so the specified location on the page appears in the currently visible area. If the [href attribute](#) of a hyperlink consists of just a fragment identifier with no URI, the browser will scroll the current page to the specified location.

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Definition of "<dfn>global attribute</dfn>"

A <dfn>global attribute</dfn> is an attribute with a name allocated in the [global attribute name partition](#) associated with a specific namespace URI and therefore is independent of any specific element type. When an attribute is defined as a global attribute it is not limited to a single element type; various elements in the same namespace or even other namespaces can be defined to allow the attribute to be coded on those elements.

The [HTML common attributes](#) are one example of global attributes. However, unlike XML [global attributes](#), which must always be explicitly prefixed, the HTML common attributes do

not have a namespace prefix but are defined to be automatically associated with the [HTML namespace](#). The consequence of this is that they will be processed as global attributes when the document is being processed as HTML or XHTML, but as [local attributes](#) when the document is being processed as pure XML.

Contrast with [local attribute](#) and the [HTML common attributes](#), which are [global attributes](#) in HTML documents.

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Definition of HTML "<dfn>heading content</dfn>"

<dfn>Heading content</dfn> defines the headings of a [section](#). The [tags](#) for [HTML elements](#) that create heading content are:

- [<hgroup>](#) and
- the [heading tags](#)

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Definition of HTML "<dfn>implied element</dfn>"

An <dfn>implied element</dfn> is an [element](#) node in an HTML document's hierarchical object model that did not explicitly appear in the document's serialized code, and therefore was assumed based on other HTML code in the document. A good example of an implied element is the [tbody element](#), which is often assumed between a [<table> tag](#) and the first [<tr> table row tag](#) underneath it.

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Definition of HTML "<dfn>inline tag</dfn>" and "<dfn>inline element</dfn>"

Definition of <dfn>inline tag</dfn>

Inline tags are the [HTML tags](#) that are used to create text and other visual elements in the direction of flow of text within a paragraph, which is from left to right in many languages. For example, [tag](#) is normally an inline tag, in contrast to the [<div> tag](#), which is normally a [block tag](#). However, styles can be used to override a tag to make it a `display: inline` tag.

Definition of <dfn>inline element</dfn>

In the HTML content models, an inline [element](#) consists of a single standalone inline tag or the starting and ending tags for [phrasing content](#) along with any other phrasing content between them. Inline elements are the [HTML elements](#) for text and other visual elements displayed in the direction of flow of text within a paragraph, which is from left to right in many languages. For example, the [span element](#) is normally an inline element, in contrast to the [div element](#), which is normally a [block element](#). However, styles can be used to override an element to make it a `display: inline` element.

In an HTML document, an inline element is created by either a single [standalone self-closed tag](#) or else a pair of starting and ending tags, which mark the beginning and end of the

element. The `<dfn>element type</dfn>` indicated by the element name determines whether the element is an inline element or not.

[Phrasing content](#) consists of text that may be interspersed with inline elements.

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Definition of "`<dfn>inner HTML</dfn>`"

`<dfn>Inner HTML</dfn>` is the HTML content between the `>` at the end of the starting tag of an [element](#) and the `<` at the beginning of the ending tag of the same [element](#) (but not a [void element](#)), not including the tags themselves. The inner HTML is usually either [flow content](#) or [phrasing content](#), depending on the [content model](#) of the element.

For example, in the following HTML code:

```
<p>Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall.<br/>
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.</p>
```

"Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall." and "Humpty Dumpty had a great fall." with its leading whitespace are two groups of [text content](#) that, along with the `
` tag is some [phrasing content](#) that makes up the inner HTML of the `p` element for the paragraph.

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Definition of "`<dfn>lower case</dfn>`", "`<dfn>upper case</dfn>`", "`<dfn>mixed case</dfn>`", "`<dfn>title case</dfn>`", "`<dfn>small caps</dfn>`" and "`<dfn>camel case</dfn>`"

Term	Example	Definition
<code><dfn class="nobr">lower case</dfn></code>	all lower case	all letters are written as small letters
<code><dfn class="nobr">upper case</dfn></code>	ALL UPPER CASE	all letters are written as capital letters
<code><dfn class="nobr">mixed case</dfn></code>	For lunch I ate at McDonald's.	the first letters of sentences and proper names are written as capital letters, with some other letters capitalized in special cases such as the article "I" and compound names
<code><dfn class="nobr">title case</dfn></code>	Panama City Beach	the first letter of each word is written as a capital letter, as frequently seen in titles and proper names
<code><dfn class="nobr">small caps</dfn></code>	small caps	lower case letters are written in a font variant that makes them appear like capital letters

Term	Example	Definition
<code><dfn class="nobr">camel case</dfn></code>	backgroundColor	in a term written as a compound word without spaces, the first letter of each word except the first is capitalized in order to make it more readable; frequently used in programming languages and markup languages such as HTML

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Definition of "`<dfn>local attribute</dfn>`"

A `<dfn>local attribute</dfn>` is firmly associated with a specific element type and therefore is defined to be coded only on that element. The name of a local attribute is allocated from an [namespace partition](#) for that specific element's attribute names and is only associated with a namespace indirectly through that element. A local attribute with the same name on another element is a distinctly different type of attribute.

Contrast with [global attribute](#) and the [HTML common attributes](#), which are [global attributes](#) in HTML documents.

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Definition of "`<dfn>Markup Language</dfn>`"

or "`<dfn>Tag Language</dfn>`"

A `<dfn>markup language</dfn>` is an artificial language used to add style information or other metadata to documents. The term `<dfn>markup</dfn>` originates from the way typewritten documents, such as news articles, were `<dfn>marked up</dfn>` with instructions for editing or typesetting.

Most markup languages for documents on the Internet consist of [<dfn>tags</dfn>](#) that are inserted into the text content of a document. A few of the markup languages for Internet documents are:

- Atom Feed Format
- HTML - Hypertext Markup Language
- RSS - Really Simple Syndication feed format
- SGML - Standard Generalized Markup Language
- XHTML - Extensible HTML
- XML - Extensible Markup Language

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Definition of HTML "<dfn>metadata content</dfn>"

Metadata content is created by the elements of HTML that are normally not displayed directly to the user but instead provide additional information for browsers and other user agents parsing the HTML. The metadata can describe the relationship of other documents in relation to the one being parsed or affect the presentation or behavior of other content in the same document.

The tags for HTML elements that create metadata content include:

- [<base/>](#)
- [<command/>](#)
- [<link/>](#)
- [<meta/>](#)
- [<script>](#) and [<noscript>](#)
- [<style>](#)
- [<title>](#)

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Definition of HTML "<dfn>namespace</dfn>"

A <dfn>namespace</dfn> is an attribute associated with the name of some object, such as a [node](#) in an HTML document, that distinguishes the type of object represented by the name from other types of objects with the same name in other namespaces. For example, in

```
<head><title>Heading Title</title></head>
```

`title` is the name of an [element](#) (the [title element](#)) in HTML while in

```
<a href="..." title="link title" ...>
```

`title` is the name of a [title attribute](#) on an [HTML <a> tag](#).

On this site, the notation `<a href>` refers to the `href` attribute in the [html:a element namespace](#), where `html:` is the namespace prefix for the [HTML namespace](#).

See the [HTML Namespace Tutorial](#) for more information on namespaces in HTML 5.

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Definition of HTML "<dfn>node</dfn>" in DOM

A <dfn>node</dfn> is the representation of an object in the hierarchical model of a document. Types of nodes in a [DOM](#) include:

<dfn>element nodes</dfn>

<dfn>attribute nodes</dfn>

<dfn>non-markup content</dfn> - text, character data and whitespace

These nodes provide a model for content between the ">" ending one tag in a marked-up document and the "<" beginning another tag, which includes whitespace, text, character references and character data sections.

<dfn>declarations</dfn>

such as the [xml declaration](#) and the [DOCTYPE declaration](#)

<dfn>processing instructions</dfn>

such as the [xmlstylesheet processing instruction](#)

<dfn>comments</dfn>

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Definition of HTML "<dfn>phrasing content</dfn>"

In the content tree that makes up the body of an HTML document, <dfn>phrasing content</dfn> is the content at the lower level that consists of text and HTML elements that mark up the text *within* paragraphs. Generally, [text content](#) and other phrasing content marked up with [inline tags](#) is also categorized as phrasing content, but a [block tag](#) with phrasing content inside it is categorized as [flow content](#).

The simplest form of phrasing content is plain [text content](#). Text content and [phrasing content elements](#) can usually be used where either [flow content](#) or phrasing content is expected.

When the expected content of an HTML element is phrasing content, you cannot code any [flow content elements](#), *only* [phrasing content elements](#), with some occasional additional restrictions.

See [Flow Content vs. Phrasing Content](#) for more information.

HTML Phrase Elements

<dfn>HTML phrase elements</dfn>, as defined in HTML 4, are one type of [inline element](#) that can be used to mark up phrases and are some of the [elements that can be used in phrasing content](#).

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Definition of HTML "<dfn>polyglot</dfn>"**Polyglot HTML documents can be processed by either HTML or XML parsers**

A **<dfn>polyglot HTML document</dfn>** is an HTML document that has been coded in such a way that it can be successfully parsed in any of three ways:

1. as an HTML serialization of HTML, such as by web browsers and other software that process HTML documents from that serialization format
2. as an XML serialization of HTML (xHTML), such as by web browsers and other software that process HTML documents from that serialization format

3. as pure XML, such as by aggregators, XSLT and other software that process documents as XML

A significant advantage of starting to code HTML documents using **polyglot HTML syntax** is that, by definition it is a common generic subset of the other possible syntaxes, and so there are fewer rules for newcomers beginning to code HTML to learn. Then if at some point later you find a need for a feature of one of the more specific HTML syntax alternatives for some task you are trying to accomplish, you will be able to determine which of the two possible HTML syntax options should suit your needs.

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Definition of HTML "<dfn>property</dfn>"

A `<dfn id="dfn-element">property</dfn>` is a simple data structure consisting of a name and a value, also known as a `<dfn>name-value pair</dfn>`. An `<dfn id="dfn-element">HTML property</dfn>` is a characteristic of something in an HTML document. In HTML, a property *always* has some value, possibly null or empty, that might come from its default value, an inherited value or a value explicitly set by an [attribute](#) on an [HTML tag](#).

The [HTMLPropertiesCollection interface](#) provides access to a collection of properties.

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Definition of HTML "<dfn>root node</dfn>"

The `<dfn>root node</dfn>` of the Document Object Model is a single [node](#) that is the parent of the nodes at the top of a document's nested tag hierarchy, the nodes at the beginning of the document, which includes a single [top element](#). In an HTML document the root node is the parent of the element represented by the `<html>` tag and of any other top-level nodes such as [processing instructions](#).

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Definition of HTML "<dfn>sectioning content</dfn>" and "<dfn>section outline</dfn>"

`<dfn>Sectioning content</dfn>` defines the scope of [heading elements](#) and [footer elements](#). The [tags](#) for [HTML elements](#) that create sectioning content are:

- [<article>](#)
- [<aside>](#)
- [<nav>](#)
- [<section>](#)

These tags explicitly create a `<dfn>section</dfn>`. When they are not coded, the following tags will implicitly create a section:

- [<hgroup>](#)
- any of the [<h> heading tags](#) without a parent `<hgroup>`

A `<dfn>section outline</dfn>` (not to be confused with the CSS `outline` property) is a tree representation of the sections starting with a `sectioning root` tag and including the sections explicitly or implicitly created within the scope of the outline. No more than one heading for each section is included in the outline.

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Definition of HTML "`<dfn>tag</dfn>`"

A `<dfn>tag</dfn>` in HTML is a representation of an `element` in the serialized form of an HTML document. A `<dfn>start tag</dfn>` or `<dfn>empty tag</dfn>` contains a `<`, the element name, one or more optional attribute name/value pairs separated from the tag name and other attributes by whitespace and ends with either `>` or `/>`, such as `
`, which is the `line break tag in HTML`. An `<dfn>end tag</dfn>` contains just `</`, the tag name and `>`, for example `</html>` which is the `</html> end tag`.

The term `<dfn>tag</dfn>` is normally used when referring to the mark up in the serialized form of an HTML document. In contrast, the term `element` typically refers to the internal representation of an HTML object as a `node` in the document's hierarchical object model, encompassing all of its descendants.

A `<dfn>standalone tag</dfn>` is single tag that starts with the `<` delimiter and is self-closed with `/>`. A standalone tag has no `inner HTML` content, not even `HTML comments`.

In an HTML document's serialized form, the name of a tag can be easily recognized because it will always be preceded by a left angle brace ("`<`"), if it's a start tag or a standalone tag, or the by the characters "`</`" if it's an end tag. On this site, an element name with these characters indicates that the serial representation of the element is being discussed. An element name without these delimiters indicates that the internal representation of the element in the internal object model is being discussed.

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Definition of "`<dfn>text content</dfn>`"

`<dfn>Text content</dfn>` is the text between the `>` at the end of one tag and the `<` at the beginning of another tag, not including the tags themselves. By definition, text content does not contain any HTML tags, although it might contain `HTML comments`. The tags before and after the text content do not necessarily need to be matching starting and ending tags; one or both could be a `standalone tag` or they could be the ending tag of one `element` and the starting tag of another. Text content marked up with `inline tags` is categorized as `phrasing content`.

For example, in the following HTML code:

```
<p>Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall.<br/>
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.</p>
```

"Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall." and "Humpty Dumpty had a great fall." with its leading whitespace are both some `text content`. These two groups of text content along with the `
` tag is `phrasing content` and the entire paragraph, including the starting and ending `paragraph tags`, is `flow content`.

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Definition of HTML "<dfn>top element</dfn>"

The <dfn>top element</dfn>, sometimes called the <dfn>document element</dfn> or <dfn>root element</dfn> (not to be confused with the [root node](#) or [sectioning root element](#)), is a single [element](#) in the [DOM](#) that encloses all of the other text and markup tags in the document except for any comments outside the top element and a few leading [declarations and processing instructions](#). One of these declarations, the [DOCTYPE declaration](#), includes the <dfn>document element name</dfn>, which is `html` for HTML documents. The parent [node](#) of the top element and any other nodes outside of it is the [root node](#). In an HTML document, the top element is created by the `<html>` start tag at the beginning of a document and the `</html>` [end tag](#) at the end of the document, which enclose all other [HTML tags](#) in the document.

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Definition of HTML "<dfn>transparent content</dfn>"

There are a few [HTML tags](#) that are considered <dfn>transparent</dfn> in that when their content is considered to be [phrasing content](#) then the [element](#) itself is also considered to be [phrasing content](#) and when their content is considered to be [flow content](#) then the [element](#) itself is also considered to be [flow content](#). The [tags](#) for [HTML elements](#) with transparent content include:

- [<a>](#)
- [<ins>](#)
- [](#)
- [<map>](#)

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Definition of URI (Uniform Resource Identifier) and URI Reference

Definition of <dfn>URI</dfn>

A URI is a string of characters that can be used to identify an abstract or physical resource. URIs are defined by RFC 3986. In many cases, URIs are used to identify a <dfn>point of content</dfn>, such as an HTML web page or a specific location within a particular web page.

A [URL](#) is one type of URI that identifies a resource, such as a web page, by its location on the Internet. A <#> and [fragment identifier](#) can be appended to the URL to identify a specific point within the web page. Therefore, in HTML, values of a number of attributes are coded as URIs. When the scheme is `http` or `https`, the format of the URI is:

`http://host.domain.tld/path/file-name.ext?query#fragment`

`https://host.domain.tld/path/file-name.ext?query#fragment`

The initial [URL](#) part of these types of URIs identify resources that can be located and retrieved via the Internet. Note that the `#fragment` is not part of the [URL](#). According to RFC 3986 (and one of its predecessors, RFC 2396), the fragment is handled on the client

(browser) side *after* the resource has been located and retrieved via the URL part of the URI.

Definition of `<dfn>URI Reference</dfn>`

A `<dfn>URI reference</dfn>` is either a full URI or a relative URI that will be resolved relative to a base URI. For example, in an HTML document a URI reference without a full URL part can be resolved relative to the base URL of the document.

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Definition of URL (Uniform Resource Locator)

A URL is a string of characters that identifies a resource, such as a web page, by its location on the Internet. The format of a URL that uses the HTTP protocol to retrieve a resource is:

`http://host.domain.tld/path/file-name.ext?query`

When the scheme at the beginning of the URL is `https` instead of `http`, the resource is retrieved over a secure (SSL) connection.

One difference between a URL and a [URI](#) with the HTTP protocol is that there is no `#fragment` in a URL. According to RFC 3986 (and one of its predecessors, RFC 2396), a URL is one type of [URI](#) that identifies a resource. By appending a [fragment identifier](#) to a URL, a [URI](#) can be used to identify a specific point of content within that resource.

Whether the resolved value of a [URI reference](#) should be a URL or a [URI](#) depends more on the type of resource being referenced than where it is coded. For example, two-dimensional images don't have placemarks to scroll to a particular place in the image, therefore the value of the `` attribute should resolve to a URL. In the future, however, the `<audio src>` and/or `<video src>` attributes might allow skipping to a placemark (time code) in a media resource.

Note that the HTML 5 specification defines the term URL *different* from the standard definition of URL, as indicated by the specification itself:

`<blockquote>`Note: The term "URL" in this specification is used in a manner distinct from the precise technical meaning it is given in RFC 3986. Readers familiar with that RFC will find it easier to read this specification if they pretend the term "URL" as used herein is really called something else altogether. This is a willful violation of RFC 3986.`</blockquote>`

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Definition of HTML "`<dfn>void element</dfn>`"

A `<dfn>void element</dfn>` is an [element](#) that can never have any [child elements](#) or [text content](#). The term refers to the [content model](#) of an element without any content. In [plogplot HTML documents](#), a `void element` is usually coded as a self-closing empty tag (`
`, ``) rather than with a separate start tag and end tag (`
</br>`, ``).

Contrast with [empty element](#), which refers to an [element](#) with no content in the serialized form of an HTML document.

Some browsers violate the rules for how to code void elements and [empty elements](#). For example, Internet Explorer only processes `<link>` tags when coded with a separate start and end tag:

```
<link rel="shortcut icon" sizes="16x16" type="image/vnd.microsoft.icon"  
➔ href="/favicon.ico"></link>
```

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THE END