

Coding the html tag in HTML 5

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Compatibility with W3C HTML standards and XML Parsers

In the 2000 W3C standard version of [HTML](#) (and HTML version 5) all of the markup language elements are qualified with a namespace. The advantage of this is that the content can be aggregated with other content, or vice versa, without having the names of the elements from the two sources conflict with each other.

Even if the `xmlns` attribute is not coded, web browsers are supposed to assume that the tag names for all elements in a document are in the default HTML namespace. However, other types of user agents, which normally use more generic XML parsers, would not assume a namespace for elements by default. Therefore, the **<html> tag** should include an `xmlns` attribute, which specifies the namespace of the HTML elements in the document. In addition, the "html" tag name should be coded in lower case in the start tag and matching end tag. (These [rules for coding HTML](#) are in the [HTML syntax](#) section of the [<html> tag reference](#).)

This is how the **<html> tag** should appear in HTML 5 documents:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml">
  ...
</html>
```

See [The <html> Tag in HTML 5 - What's New](#) for further details.

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THE END