

HTML <base/> Tag

Description, syntax, usage, attributes and examples of the HTML <base/> tag HTML-5.com is a great guide for web developers. [TV Series & Actors and Actresses](#). Follow [TV Series](#) and [HTML 5](#) on Google+.

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The <base/> Tag in HTML 5

The <base/> tag can be used to:

- specify a base URL for resolving other URLs in the document
- specify a browsing context for hypertext links in the document, which can be used to open other documents in a separate window, for example

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<base/> Tag Syntax

```
<a mode="pre" href=" ../head-tag/index.html#syntax"><head></a>
  <a mode="pre" href=" ../title-tag/index.html#syntax"><title></a> Example Only</title>
  <b mode="pre"><base href="http://www.ExampleOnly.com/articles/" target="_blank"/></b>
  ...
</head>
```

Rules for coding the HTML base element

Make sure you understand the [difference between a tag and element](#) and are familiar with the [definitions](#) of [namespace](#) and other [HTML terms](#).

1. Code a single optional **base** element in the [<head> section](#) of the HTML document where [metadata content](#) is expected. It is best to put the <base> tag near the beginning of the head section, since it must come before other HTML tags, such as a [<link> tag](#) that may have any attributes with URLs (even if those attributes are not coded, since those attribute values could be added dynamically). The one exception is the [<html manifest> attribute](#), which the base URL does not apply to. The [<title> tag](#) and other tags with no URL attributes such as [href=](#) can be coded either before or after the <base> tag.
2. The **base** element consists of a standalone <base/> tag. The element name uses lower case letters and should be in the [HTML namespace](#), which it will pick up automatically from the [xmlns attribute](#) on the [<html> tag](#).
3. Include at least an [href](#) attribute or a [target=](#) attribute, possibly both, within the <base> tag.
4. The value of the [href attribute](#), which is enclosed in double quotes, is the base URL for other URLs in the document, which otherwise would default to the actual location of the document.

5. The value of the [target attribute](#), enclosed in double quotes, is a name or keyword for the default <dfn>browsing context</dfn> for all of the hypertext links in the document. This can be used to open all links in a new window or browser tab, for example.
6. Include any other [HTML attributes on the <base> tag](#) as necessary.
7. Since the **base** element is a [void element](#), it should always be coded as a self-closing tag terminated with the delimiter string `</>`.

<base/> Content Model

Contents of the base element

Content: *Empty*. All properties are coded using [attributes](#).

Since the `<base/>` tag is a [void element](#), it is not allowed to have any content, even [HTML comments](#) and therefore should always be coded as a self-closing [standalone tag](#), ending with the delimiter string `</>` rather than just `>` (`<base .../>`).

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<base/> Tag Attributes

Attributes of the <base/> tag

global attributes	In addition to the personal attributes of the <code><base></code> tag below, any of the common HTML attributes can also be coded.
href	<p>a URI reference that resolves to a URL that will be used to resolve other URI references in the document.</p> <p>Use percent escape codes as explained in the URL-encoding tutorial for any special characters in the URI reference.</p> <p>If the value of the <code>href</code> attribute resolves to an HTTP URL, it may contain any of the following components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. protocol scheme, typically <code>http:</code> or else <code>https:</code> 2. username, followed by an "@" 3. host name or IP address 4. port number, which defaults to 80 for the <code>http</code> scheme and 443 for the <code>https</code> scheme 5. absolute or relative path 6. search query, indicated by "?" <p>If the protocol scheme, username, host name/IP address and port number are omitted the default is the current host - the same server as the base of the current document. If the path starts with a slash <code>/...</code>, it is an absolute path from the</p>

	document root directory (AKA "<dfn>web root</dfn>") on the server. A relative path will be resolved relative to the base of the current document.
<code>target</code>	<code>target="_self"</code> or <code>target=""</code> (default) <code>target="_top"</code> <code>target="_blank"</code> <code>target="_parent"</code> <code>target="name"</code>

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<base/> Tag Examples

Examples of the `base/` tag in HTML 5

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Changes in HTML 5 - <base/> Tag

What's new in HTML 5

The `target` attribute has been added for consistency with the [<a> tag](#).

Differences between HTML 5 and earlier versions of HTML

In previous versions of HTML, the value of the [<base href> attribute](#) was required to be an absolute URL. In HTML 5, it can be resolved relative to the address of the document.

In [poyplot HTML documents](#) the `<base/>` tag is coded as a self-closing tag the same as in the [2000-2010 Recommendations from the W3C HTML Working Group](#). Those specifications changed the ending delimiter to `/>` from `>` in older recommendations. They also defined the [HTML namespace](#) for the **base** element type name and the names of other [HTML element types](#).

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THE END