

## HTML <cite> Tag for Quote Source

#cite# is the citation tag for the source of a quote in HTML. #cite# description, syntax, usage, attributes and examples. 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 <cite> Tag in HTML 5

The `<cite>` tag identifies the title of a creative work. The **cite** element is one of the [phrase elements in HTML](#). It can be used by itself, or along with one of the quote tags:

- `<q>` for a short quote, inline with other content
- `<blockquote>` for a long quote

#### <cite> for a paraphrased quote

When a source is *not* being quoted directly, the `<cite>` tag would be used without a quote tag (`<blockquote>` or `<q>` tag). For example:

According to `<cite>Authoring HTML</cite>`, the `<cite>` tag should be used for the *title* of a creative work, *not* the cited content.

#### <cite> with <q> tag for a short quote

When a source *is* being quoted directly, the `<cite>` tag along with the `<q>` tag can be used for a short quote:

Per `<cite>HTML Color Picker</cite>`, `<q cite="http://www.HTML-5.com/css/css-styles/#html-color-picker">In a browser that does not yet support the <span class="nobr">HTML <input type="range"/></span> for a slider bar control, [HTML slider bar] controls will appear as text input fields.</q>`

The content inside the `q` element appears inline with the surrounding content. Note the [use of square brackets](#) in this example.

#### <cite> with <blockquote> tag for a long quote

The `<cite>` tag can be used with the `<blockquote>` tag can be used for a longer passage that is being quoted directly:

One of my favorite quotes from `<span style="white-space: nowrap"> <cite>William Shakespeare <br></br>Twelfth Night <br></br>Act II Scene 5</cite></span>`

```
<blockquote id="example-1" cite="http://www.Shakespeare-Literature.com/Twelfth_Night/10.html">In my stars I am above thee; but be not afraid of greatness: some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon 'em. </blockquote>
```

These are actual working examples of the [<cite> tag example code](#) below. Resize the browser window narrower or wider to see whether or not your browser supports the [word break \(<wbr/> tag\)](#) in content with a [white-space: nowrap style](#). WebKit-based browsers such as Chrome and Safari are the first ones to support the [<wbr/> tag](#) in this context and break the citation where indicated; Firefox and Opera do not and instead move the entire citation to a separate line when it does not fit on the first line.

### Use of square brackets in quotes

When any text in the quote is changed or added, the modified text should be indicated using square brackets. Some uses of square brackets include:

- Use square brackets when adding `[sic]` to indicate that content which may appear to the reader to be a mistake actually appears as it occurs in the original source.
- Use square brackets when clarifying meaning such as when replacing a demonstrative pronoun (that, those, such, etc.) with the actual noun, possibly from unquoted source content. In the example above, square brackets were used when the word `<q>those</q>` was replaced with `[HTML slider bar]`.

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## <cite> Tag Syntax

### Rules for coding HTML `cite` elements

```
<a mode="pre" href=" ../body-tag/index.html#syntax"><body></a>
...
<a mode="pre" href=" ../html-tag-list.html#phrasing-content-model">... phrasing content expected
<b mode="pre"><cite></b><a mode="pre" href=" ../definitions/index.html#phrasing-content">... ph
...
</body>
```

### Rules for coding HTML `cite` elements

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 the `cite` element for the title of a cited work where [phrasing content](#) is expected.
2. Begin the `cite` element with a starting `<cite>` 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 any [HTML global attributes on the <cite> tag](#) as appropriate.
4. Inside the `cite` element, between the starting `<cite>` tag and the ending `</cite>` tag, code the inner HTML [phrasing content](#) for the title of the work that you are citing.
5. End the `cite element` with a matching `</cite>` closing tag.

### Content Model

The content of the `cite` element can include [HTML comments](#), [text content](#) and only those [HTML tags that can be used in phrasing content](#).

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## <cite> Tag Attributes

### Attributes of the <cite> tag

<a href="#">global attributes</a>	The only attributes that can be coded on the <cite> tag are the <a href="#">common HTML attributes</a> .
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## <cite> Tag Examples

### Examples of the `<cite>` tag in HTML 5

#### Using the <cite> tag for the source of a citation

```
<p>According to <a href="http://www.AuthoringHTML.com/"><cite>Authoring
HTML</cite></a>,
the &lt;cite&gt; tag should be used for the <em>title</em> of a creative work,
<em>not</em> the cited content.</p>
```

```
<p>Per <a href="http://www.HTML-5.com/css/css-styles/#html-color-picker">
<cite>HTML Color Picker</cite></a>,
<q cite="http://www.HTML-5.com/css/css-styles/#html-color-picker">In a browser
that does not yet support the HTML <input type="range"/> for a slider bar
control,
[HTML slider bar] controls will appear as text input fields.</q></p>
```

Note that the content of the `<cite>` element is the title of the source of the quotation, while the value of the `<q cite>` attribute is a URL or other URI reference. The same URL is used in the `<a href>` attribute, the target of the link which will be visible, and the `<q cite>` attribute, which will not be displayed.

```
<p>One of my favorite quotes from <span style="white-space: nowrap">
<a href="http://www.Shakespeare-Literature.com/Twelfth_Night/10.html">
<cite>William Shakespeare <br/>Twelfth Night <br/>Act II Scene
5</cite></a></span>
</p>
<blockquote
cite="http://www.Shakespeare-Literature.com/Twelfth_Night/10.html"
>In my stars I am above thee; but be not afraid of greatness:
some are born great, some achieve greatness,
and some have greatness thrust upon 'em.
</blockquote>
```

The `<span style="white-space: nowrap">` prevents the cited title text from breaking in inappropriate places and the `<br/>` tags indicate where line breaks *should* be placed. The same URL is used in the `<a href>` attribute, the target of the link which will be visible, and the `<blockquote cite>` attribute, which will not be displayed.

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## Changes in HTML 5 - <cite> Tag

### What's new in HTML 5

#### Differences between HTML 5 and earlier versions of HTML

The [2000-2010 Recommendations from the W3C HTML Working Group](#) defined the [HTML namespace](#) for the `<cite>` element type name along with the names of all [HTML element](#)

[types](#). In older (pre-2000) [versions of HTML](#), element type names were not associated with a namespace.

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*THE END*