HTML <datalist> Tag

#datalist# creates a list of predefined options for autocompetion. #datalist# 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 <datalist> Tag in HTML 5

The <datalist> tag is used to create a combo box input field with autocomplete in an HTML form. Suggestions for autocompletion come from predefined options coded with the <option> tag.

<label>What is your favorite color? <input name="color" type="text" list="html-colors"></input> <datalist id="html-colors">
Some suggestions: <option value="black">Black</option> <option value="blue">Blue</option> <option value="fuchsia">Fuchsia</option> <option value="gray">Gray</option> <option value="green">Green</option> <option value="lime">Lime</option> <option value="maroon">Maroon</option> <option value="navy">Navy</option> <option value="olive">Olive</option> <option value="purple">Purple</option> <option value="red">Red</option> <option value="silver">Silver</option> <option value="teal">Teal</option> <option value="white">White</option> <option value="yellow">Yellow</option> </datalist> </label>
This is an actual working example of the <datalist> tag example code below. If your browser supports the <datalist> tag, the `<option value>`s will be displayed *after* you start typing data into the input field, then it should appear something like this:

<img width="730" height="211" src="/images/datalist-in-opera.png" alt="<datalist> in Opera" style="padding: 8px; background-color: #0099bb"></img>
If your browser does *not* support the <datalist> tag, the options will *always* be displayed, even *before* starting to type data into the input field, possibly like this:

<img width="855" height="55" src="/images/datalist-in-ie.png" alt="<datalist> in IE" style="padding: 8px; background-color: #0099bb"></img>
... or maybe like this:

<img width="738" height="341" src="/images/datalist-in-firefox.png" alt="<datalist> in Firefox" style="padding: 8px; background-color: #0099bb"></img>

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<datalist> Tag Syntax

```
<a mode="pre" href="../body-tag/index.html#syntax"><body></a>
    ...
    <a mode="pre" href="../html-tag-list.html#phrasing-content-model">... phrasing content expe
    <b mode="pre"><datalist id="..."></b>
```

```
        <a mode="pre" href="../option-tag/"><option value="..." label="..."></a><a mode="pre" href="..
        <a mode="pre" href="../../definitions/index.html#phrasing-content">... phrasing content ...</a
     <b mode="pre"></datalist></b>  ...
     ...
  </body>
```

Rules for coding HTML datalist 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 **datalist** element where phrasing content is expected.
2. Begin the **datalist** element with a starting <datalist> 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. Inside the <datalist> starting tag, include an id attribute that can be used to refer to the data list.
4. Inside the **datalist** element, between the starting `<datalist>` tag and the ending `</datalist>` tag, code the option elements for the predefined suggestions.
5. Also inside the **datalist** element,code the fallback text and/or phrasing content.
6. End the **datalist** element with a matching `</datalist>` closing tag.

datalist Content Model

The content of the **datalist** element consists of a list of **option** elements along with fallback content for browsers that do not support the <datalist> tag.

Note that the options cannot be grouped with the <optgroup> tag like the options in a <select> list can.

According to the HTML 5 specifications:

<blockquote> In the rendering, the datalist element represents nothing and it, along with its children, should be hidden. </blockquote>
However, this applies only to browsers that support the <datalist> tag. Browsers that do not support <datalist> will display the content of the **datalist** element, including the text content of any child **option** elements. See the examples of the <datalist> tag below for how to hande this.

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<datalist> Tag Attributes

Attributes of the <datalist> tag

global attributes	In addition to the personal attributes of the <datalist> tag below, any of the common HTML attributes can also be coded.
id	`id` global attribute The id attribute is used to associate the data list with an **input** element via the <input list> attribute.

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<datalist> Tag Examples

Examples of the `datalist` tag in HTML 5

Example of <datalist> with inline list values

```
  <label>What is your favorite color? <input name="color" type="text"
➥ list="html-colors"/>
    <datalist id="html-colors"><br/>Some suggestions:
      <option value="black">Black</option>
      <option value="blue">Blue</option>
      <option value="fuchsia">Fuchsia</option>
      <option value="gray">Gray</option>
      <option value="green">Green</option>
      <option value="lime">Lime</option>
      <option value="maroon">Maroon</option>
      <option value="navy">Navy</option>
      <option value="olive">Olive</option>
      <option value="purple">Purple</option>
      <option value="red">Red</option>
      <option value="silver">Silver</option>
      <option value="teal">Teal</option>
      <option value="white">White</option>
      <option value="yellow">Yellow</option>
    </datalist>
  </label>
```

Example of <datalist> with `<option label>`s

```
  <input name="datalist-item" list="datalist-items" size="40"
    style="border: 1px solid black"
  />
  <datalist id="datalist-items"><br/>Some suggestions:
    <option value="datalist item without label"></option>
    <option value="datalist item with label" label="label for datalist
➥ item"></option>
    <option value="datalist item with text">text for datalist item</option>
  </datalist>
```

In browsers that do not support the <datalist> tag, the text content of any <option> tags ("text for datalist item" above) appears along with any other fallback code. The `<p>Some suggestions:</p>` is included to indicate to the user what the fallback text from the <option>s means.

Here is an actual working demo of the code above. (Do *View Source* to verify that this page is using the HTML 5 DOCTYPE. You can also verify it is Valid HTML 5 using the HTML Validator.)

Note: The first browser where this datalist demo actually works is Opera. It may not work yet in other browsers.

<input name="datalist-item" list="datalist-items" size="40" style="border: 1px solid black"></input> <datalist id="datalist-items">
Some suggestions: <option value="datalist item without label"></option> <option value="datalist item with label" label="label for datalist item"></option> <option value="datalist item with text">text for datalist item</option> </datalist>

<div align="center">back to top</div>

Changes in HTML 5 - <datalist> Tag

What's new in HTML 5

Differences between HTML 5 and earlier versions of HTML

The <datalist> tag did not exist in older versions of HTML.

The [2000-2010 Recommendations from the W3C HTML Working Group](#) defined the [HTML namespace](#) for the names of all [HTML element types](#), which now includes the element name. In older (pre-2000) [versions of HTML](#), element type names were not associated with a namespace.

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THE END