HTML <del> Tag for Deleted Content

#del# identifies deleted text. #del# 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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HTML <del> Tag for Deleted Content

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The <del> Tag in HTML 5

The <del> tag for deletions is one of the editing tags for tracking changes in HTML 5. It is used to mark up text and/or HTML code to indicate that it has *in effect* been removed instead of actually deleting it from the document. This approach to editing changes in HTML documents can be used to provide a standing record of the original text of articles, blog entries or other edited documents. When the deletions are to be displayed, a different style, often `text-decoration: line-through` to select a strike-through font, can be used to provide a visual indication of the deleted content or the deletions can be hidden from view with the `display: none` style.

Likewise, the <ins> editing tag can be used to mark up new text and/or HTML code inserted into a document.

The difference between the <s> (strike) and `<del>` tags is that `<del>` is, in effect, as good as deleting the content from the document, while <dfn>striking</dfn> content using the `<s> tag` is for content that is to be *included* in the document and just visually *appear* as stricken.

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<del> Tag Syntax

```
<a mode="pre" href="../body-tag/index.html#syntax"><body></a>
    <a mode="pre" href="../html-tag-list.html#flow-content-model">... flow content expected ...
    <b mode="pre"><del cite="changelog-URL" datetime="yyyy-mm-ddThh:mm:ss+zz:00"></b>
      <a mode="pre" href="../../definitions/index.html#flow-content">... flow content ...</a>
    <b mode="pre"></del></b>
    ...
    <a mode="pre" href="../html-tag-list.html#phrasing-content-model">... phrasing content expe
     datetime="yyyy-mm-ddThh:mm:ss+zz:00"></b>  ...
    <a mode="pre" href="../../definitions/index.html#phrasing-content">... phrasing content ...
    ...
  </body>
```

Rules for coding the HTML del 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 the **del** element for deleted text and/or HTML code where either flow content is expected or phrasing content is expected.

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2. Begin the **del** element with a starting <del> 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. Optionally code a `cite` attribute with the URL of a document that provides an explanation for the change.

4. Optionally code a `datetime` attribute with the date or date and time of the change.

5. Include any other global attributes inside the starting <del> tag as appropriate.

6. Inside the **del** element, include the text or other phrasing content that is being deleted. If the `<del>` tag is coded where flow content is permitted, then the inner HTML of the `<del>` tag may contain flow content also.

7. End the **del** element with a matching `</del>` closing tag.

Content Model

When coded in flow content, the content of the **del** element can include HTML comments, text content and any HTML tags that can be used in flow content.

When coded in phrasing content, the content of the **del** element can include HTML comments, text content and only those HTML tags that can be used in phrasing content.

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<del> Tag Attributes

Attributes of the <del> tag

global attributes	In addition to the personal attributes of the <del> tag below, any of the common HTML attributes can also be coded.
`cite`	a URI reference (or IRI reference depending on the `encoding`) that resolves to the URI of a document that explains the reason for the deletion or a fragment of a document describing multiple changes. Use percent escape codes as explained in the URL Encoding Tutorial for any special characters in the URI reference. If the value of the `cite` attribute is an HTTP URI, it may contain any of the following components: 1. protocol scheme, typically `http:` or else `https:` 2. username, followed by an "@" 3. host name or IP address 4. port number, which defaults to 80 for the `http` scheme and 443 for the `https` scheme 5. absolute or relative path 6. search query, indicated by "?"

	7. fragment identifier, indicated by "#"
	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 `/...`, it is an absolute path from the 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. A URI with a "#" but no fragment identifier points to the top of the document.
`datetime="mm/dd/yyyy"` `datetime="mm/dd/yyyyThh:mm-zz:zz"`	The `datetime` attribute contains the date or date and time that the change was made.

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<del> Tag Examples

Examples of the `del` tag in HTML 5

```
 <p>... <del datetime="2010-10-31">deleted from paragraph on Halloween
➥ 2010</del> ...</p>

 <del datetime="2010-11-30T23:59-05:00"><p>This entire paragraph was
    deleted just before midnight Eastern time on the last day of November.
 </p></del>

 <p>... <del datetime="2010-10-31">This is just one reason for
    always using the &lt;p&gt; tag for paragraphs in HTML.</del>
 </p>
 <p><del datetime="2010-10-31">Another reason is that it</del>
    <ins>Using the &lt;p&gt; tag</ins> is highly recommended by the HTML
➥ specifications, which says
    <a href="http://www.whatwg.org/specs/web-apps/current-work/multipage/edi
➥ ts.html#edits-and-paragraphs">
       "authors are strongly encouraged to always mark up all paragraphs with
➥ the p element"</a>.
 </p>
```

The last example includes an insertion using [HTML editing code](#) and also shows that a single <del> tag cannot be used to mark up part of one paragraph along with another paragraph since that would result in mismatched tags. Two <del> tags need to be used for that. This rule applies even if the <p> tags for one of the paragraphs were implied rather than coded explicitly.

Deleting List Items in HTML 5

Deletion of a [list item](#) from an [HTML list](#) is indicated by coding the <del> tag *inside* the [tag](#):

```
 <ul>
 <li>first list item</li>
 <span mode="pre" class="incorrect"><del><li>deleted list item</li></del></span>
 <li><del>deleted list item</del></li>
```

```
</ul>
```

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Changes in HTML 5 - <del> 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 **del** 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