HTML <dt> - More Than Just A Definition Term

#dt# is used for a description term. #dt# 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 <dt> - More Than Just A Definition Term

➢ itemscopehttp://data-vocabulary.org/BreadcrumbExamples

The <dt> Tag for a <dfn>Description Term</dfn>

Formerly the <dfn>Definition Term</dfn> element

The <dt> tag is used to code a <dfn>description term</dfn> in a description list, leading into one or more detail description elements. Note that in previous versions of HTML this element was called <dfn>definition term</dfn>, but since the purpose of the HTML 5 <dfn> tag is to code a definition, the <dt> tag by itself does *not* identify a term being defined. To define a list of terms, such as for a glossary, each term defined should be identified by putting it inside a **dfn** element as shown in this example:

Term: <dfn><dl> tag</dfn>

> Definition: The <dl> tag is used to code a description list consisting of description terms alternating with groups of one or more detail descriptions.

Term: <dfn><dt> tag</dfn>

> Definition: The <dt> tag is used to code a description term in a description list, leading into one or more detail description elements.

Term: <dfn><dd> tag</dfn>

> Definition: The <dd> detail description tag is used to code the description of an item inside a **dl** element for a description list.

This is an actual working example of the <dt> tag example code below. In most HTML 5 browsers such as Firefox and Opera, the text inside the **dfn** element will be in an italic font, except for WebKit browsers such as Chrome and Safari which display it in an upright font.

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<dt> Tag Syntax

Rules for coding HTML `dt` elements

```
<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 ...
    <a mode="pre" href="../dl-tag/index.html#syntax"><dl></a>
      ...
      <b mode="pre"><dt></b><a mode="pre" href="../../definitions/index.html#phrasing-content"
      <a mode="pre" href="../dd-tag/index.html#syntax"><dd></a>
        <a mode="pre" href="../../definitions/index.html#flow-content">... flow content ...</
      </dd>
      ...
```

```
    </dl>
    ...
  </body>
```

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

1. Inside a **dl element**, code one or more **dt** elements.
2. Begin each **dt** element with a starting <dt> 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 <dt> tag as appropriate.
4. Inside the **dt** element, between the `<dt>` starting tag and the `</dt>` ending tag, code the inner HTML phrasing content for the definition term.
5. When marking up a **dt** element with editing tags (<ins> or <del>), code the <ins> tag or <del> tag inside the <dt> tag.
6. End the **dt** element with a matching `</dt>` closing tag.

<dt> Content Model

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

Validation Errors

If an element that is restricted for use in flow content is included in the inner HTML code of the **dt** element, the W3C Markup Validation Service will report an error like this:

<samp class="block">Line <var>line#</var>, Column <var>col#</var>: HTML element <var>element</var> not allowed as child of HTML element dt in this context. Contexts in which element <var>element</var> may be used: Where flow content is expected. Content model for element dt: Phrasing content.</samp>
Other tools that validate HTML code may report a similar error. In electronic publishing, for example:

<samp class="block">element "<var>element</var>" from namespace "http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml" not allowed in this context</samp>
To resolve this type of error, remove the tag(s) in error from the inner HTML of the **dt** element, which is restricted to phrasing content, or move the element(s) into a **dd element** or outside of the definition list, to a location where flow content is allowed.

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<dt> Tag Attributes

Attributes of the <dt> tag

global attributes	In addition to the personal attributes of the <dt> tag below, any of the common HTML attributes can also be coded.

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Examples of the `dt` tag in HTML 5

Example of the <dt> tag in a list of definitions

Here is an example of how to code a glossary of some HTML terms and their definitions.

```
<dl>
    <b mode="pre"><dt></b>  Term: <dfn>&lt;dl&gt; tag</dfn><b mode="pre"></dt></b>
    <dd>Definition: The &lt;dl&gt; tag is used to code a description list
➡ consisting
    of description terms alternating with groups of one or more detail
➡ descriptions.</dd>
    <b mode="pre"><dt></b>  Term: <dfn>&lt;dt&gt; tag</dfn><b mode="pre"></dt></b>
    <dd>Definition: The &lt;dt&gt; tag is used to code a description term
    in a description list, leading into one or more detail description
➡ elements.</dd>
    <b mode="pre"><dt></b>  Term:  <dfn>&lt;dd&gt; tag</dfn><b mode="pre"></dt></b>
    <dd>Definition: The &lt;dd&gt; detail description tag is used to code the
    description of an item inside a <b>dl</b> element for a description list.</dd>
</dl>
```

Note that since the <u><dl> tag</u>, <dt> tags and <u><dd> tags</u> do *not* indicate that this is a list of terms and their definitions, each term is coded inside a **dfn** element.

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<p style="text-align:center">**Changes in HTML 5 - <dt> Tag**</p>

What's new in HTML 5

Differences between HTML 5 and earlier versions of HTML

The <u>2000-2010 Recommendations from the W3C HTML Working Group</u> defined the <u>HTML namespace</u> for the **dt** element type name along with the names of all <u>HTML element types</u>. In older (pre-2000) <u>versions of HTML</u>, element type names were not associated with a namespace.

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<p style="text-align:center">*THE END*</p>