

HTML <wbr/> Tag - Optional Line Breaks

#wbr/# indicates where line breaks can be inserted. #wbr/# 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 <wbr/> Tag in HTML 5

In content with [white-space: normal](#) style, a browser will normally put a line break only where a space character or other white space occurs in the HTML code and with [white-space: nowrap](#) or [white-space: pre](#) line breaks appear only where explicitly indicated. The <wbr/> tag can be used to specify additional places where the browser can do a line break if necessary. It is one of the [inline tags used to group and separate content in HTML](#).

<wbr/> in content with [white-space: normal](#)

In a normal paragraph, the <wbr/> tag can be used in non-whitespace text to indicate where breaks may occur within words:

Without <wbr/>

Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious
 Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious
 Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious

With <wbr/>

Su<wbr></wbr>per<wbr></wbr>ca<wbr></wbr>li<wbr></wbr>fra<wbr></wbr>gi<wbr></wbr>
 wbr>lis<wbr></wbr>tic<wbr></wbr>ex<wbr></wbr>pi<wbr></wbr>al<wbr></wbr>i<wbr></wbr>
 wbr>do<wbr></wbr>cious Su<wbr></wbr>per<wbr></wbr>ca<wbr></wbr>li<wbr></wbr>
 wbr>fra<wbr></wbr>gi<wbr></wbr>lis<wbr></wbr>tic<wbr></wbr>ex<wbr></wbr>pi<wbr></wbr>
 wbr>al<wbr></wbr>i<wbr></wbr>do<wbr></wbr>cious Su<wbr></wbr>per<wbr></wbr>
 wbr>ca<wbr></wbr>li<wbr></wbr>fra<wbr></wbr>gi<wbr></wbr>lis<wbr></wbr>tic<wbr></wbr>
 wbr>ex<wbr></wbr>pi<wbr></wbr>al<wbr></wbr>i<wbr></wbr>do<wbr></wbr>cious
 Su<wbr></wbr>per<wbr></wbr>ca<wbr></wbr>li<wbr></wbr>fra<wbr></wbr>gi<wbr></wbr>
 wbr>lis<wbr></wbr>tic<wbr></wbr>ex<wbr></wbr>pi<wbr></wbr>al<wbr></wbr>i<wbr></wbr>
 wbr>do<wbr></wbr>cious Su<wbr></wbr>per<wbr></wbr>ca<wbr></wbr>li<wbr></wbr>
 wbr>fra<wbr></wbr>gi<wbr></wbr>lis<wbr></wbr>tic<wbr></wbr>ex<wbr></wbr>pi<wbr></wbr>
 wbr>al<wbr></wbr>i<wbr></wbr>do<wbr></wbr>cious

<wbr/> in content with [white-space: nowrap](#)

Without <wbr/>

Reasons for this include that I wanted each reason to be 1) numbered, 2) on the same line when possible, and 3) not split in the middle, and I was too lazy to 4) figure out how to use CSS, 5) span/nowrap each reason, or 6) code an inline ordered list.

With <wbr/>

Reasons for this include that I wanted each reason to be <wbr></wbr>1) numbered, <wbr></wbr>2) on the same line when possible, and <wbr></wbr>3) not split in the middle, <wbr></wbr>and I was too lazy to <wbr></wbr>4) figure out how to use CSS, <wbr></wbr>5) span/nowrap each reason, or <wbr></wbr>6) code an inline ordered list.

One of my favorite quotes from <cite>William Shakespeare <wbr></wbr>Twelfth Night <wbr></wbr>Act II Scene 5</cite>:

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

<wbr/> in content with [white-space: pre](#)

Example from HTML specification ([wbr element](#)). After adding the <wbr/> tags, the following code should have "Heading" and "Course" at the beginning of new lines and should also wrap, if necessary, before "HeadingCoordinates", "Maps" or "Speeds".

Without <wbr/>

```
...
Heading heading = Helm.HeadingFactory(HeadingCoordinates[1],
➔ HeadingCoordinates[2], HeadingCoordinates[3], HeadingCoordinates[4]);
Course course = Helm.CourseFactory(Heading,
➔ Maps.MapFactoryFromHeading(heading), Speeds.GetMaximumSpeed().ConvertToWarp());
...
```

With <wbr/>

```
...
Heading heading = Helm.HeadingFactory(HeadingCoordinates[1], <wbr mode="pre"></wbr> HeadingCoordinates[2],
Course course = Helm.CourseFactory(Heading, <wbr mode="pre"></wbr> Maps.MapFactoryFromHeading(heading),
...
HeadingCoordinates[3], HeadingCoordinates[4]);
Speeds.GetMaximumSpeed().ConvertToWarp());
```

Some additional examples:

Without <wbr/>

```

```

With <wbr/>

```
<img style="border: 1px solid black" <wbr mode="pre"></wbr> src="http://www.ExampleOnly.com/images"
```

There is a <wbr/> tag before the [style global attribute](#), [attribute](#) and the [attribute](#) that allows the attributes to wrap onto new lines.

An alternative to the <wbr/> tag with [white-space: pre](#) is to use with [white-space: pre-wrap](#) instead. This eliminates the ability to use the <wbr/> to suggest the places where line breaks would best be placed, so [white-space: nowrap](#) must be added to avoid line breaks in the middle of the attribute values that have spaces:

Without [white-space property](#):

```

```

With [white-space: nowrap](#) for attributes:

```
<img <span mode="pre" style="white-space: nowrap">style="border: 1px solid black"</span>
```

While similar results can be achieved with both approaches, the main difference between using the <wbr/> tag and [white-space: nowrap](#) is:

- with the former, the default behavior is *not* to wrap ([white-space: nowrap](#) or [white-space: pre](#)) and the <wbr/> tag specifies where to allow wrapping
- with the latter, the default behavior is to wrap ([white-space: normal](#), [white-space: pre-wrap](#) or [white-space: pre-line](#)) and [white-space: nowrap](#) specifies where *not* to wrap

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<wbr/> 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
...
</body>
```

Rules for coding the HTML `wbr` 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 `wbr` element where [phrasing content](#) is expected.
2. The `wbr` element consists of a standalone `<wbr />` 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 <wbr> tag](#) as appropriate.
4. Since the `<wbr />` tag is a [void element](#), it should always be coded as a self-closing tag terminated with the delimiter string `/>`.

<wbr/> Content Model

Contents of the `wbr` element

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

Since the `<wbr/>` 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 delimiters `/>` rather than just `>` (`<wbr/>`).

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<wbr/> Tag Attributes

Attributes of the <wbr/> tag

global attributes	In addition to the personal attributes of the <code><wbr/></code> tag below, any of the common HTML attributes can also be coded.
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<wbr/> Tag Examples

Examples of the <wbr/> tag in HTML 5

`style="white-space: normal"` with `<wbr/>` tag

```
<p>Su<wbr/>per<wbr/>ca<wbr/>li<wbr/>fra<wbr/>gi<wbr/>lis<wbr/>tic<wbr/>ex<wbr/>pi<wbr/>al<wbr/>i<wbr/>do<wbr/>acious
Su<wbr/>per<wbr/>ca<wbr/>li<wbr/>fra<wbr/>gi<wbr/>lis<wbr/>tic<wbr/>ex<wbr/>pi<wbr/>al<wbr/>i<wbr/>do<wbr/>acious
Su<wbr/>per<wbr/>ca<wbr/>li<wbr/>fra<wbr/>gi<wbr/>lis<wbr/>tic<wbr/>ex<wbr/>pi<wbr/>al<wbr/>i<wbr/>do<wbr/>acious
Su<wbr/>per<wbr/>ca<wbr/>li<wbr/>fra<wbr/>gi<wbr/>lis<wbr/>tic<wbr/>ex<wbr/>pi<wbr/>al<wbr/>i<wbr/>do<wbr/>acious
Su<wbr/>per<wbr/>ca<wbr/>li<wbr/>fra<wbr/>gi<wbr/>lis<wbr/>tic<wbr/>ex<wbr/>pi<wbr/>al<wbr/>i<wbr/>do<wbr/>acious
Su<wbr/>per<wbr/>ca<wbr/>li<wbr/>fra<wbr/>gi<wbr/>lis<wbr/>tic<wbr/>ex<wbr/>pi<wbr/>al<wbr/>i<wbr/>do<wbr/>acious</p>
```

`style="white-space: nowrap"` with `<wbr/>` tag

```
<p style="white-space: nowrap">Reasons for this include that I wanted each
reason to be <wbr/>1) numbered, <wbr/>2) on the same line when possible, and
<wbr/>3) not split in the middle, <wbr/>and I was too lazy to <wbr/>4) figure
out how to use CSS, <wbr/>5) span/nowrap each reason, or <wbr/>6) code an
inline ordered list.</p>
```

```
<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 <wbr/>Twelfth Night <wbr/>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>
```

`style="white-space: pre"` with `<wbr/>` tag

This code suggests wrapping before each HTML attribute.

```
<pre>alt="How to use images in HTML documents"
<wbr/>style="border: 1px solid black"/></pre>
```

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Changes in HTML 5 - <wbr/> Tag

What's new in HTML 5

The <wbr/> tag is one of the new elements in HTML 5.

Differences between HTML 5 and earlier versions of HTML

The <wbr/> 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 **wbr** element name. In older (pre-2000) [versions of HTML](#), element type names were not associated with a namespace.

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THE END