

XML Attributes in HTML

A few XML attributes, such as `<code>xmlns</code>` and `<code>xml:space</code>`, may be used in HTML documents. 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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`xmlns` attribute in HTML

The `xmlns` attribute for declaring the default namespace is a reserved attribute and not classified as either a [global attribute](#) or [local attribute](#). Although it can be specified on any HTML element, best practices suggest to declare the namespace for the entire document on the [<html> top element](#) where it will be inherited by all of its descendants.

When the document is being parsed as HTML, the `xmlns` attribute is ignored, since all HTML elements are automatically assigned to the [HTML namespace](#) and the name of the `xmlns` attribute itself is allocated in the [namespace partition](#) with no namespace URI, along with the names of other [global attributes](#).

When the document is being parsed as XML, the `xmlns` attribute name is allocated in the [http://www.w3.org/2000/xmlns/](#) namespace, separate from the HTML global attributes in the [HTML namespace](#).

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`xml:lang` attribute in HTML

The `xml:lang` attribute may be included for use when the document is being parsed as xHTML, the XHTML-compatible serialization of HTML, or as pure XML. When it is coded, the [lang global attribute](#) must also be coded with the same value.

In documents that are being parsed as HTML rather than xHTML or pure XML, the `xml:lang` attribute is considered to be a non-XML-namespace attribute with the local name "xml:lang".

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`xml:space` attribute in HTML

In documents being parsed as XML, the parser's handling of white space can be controlled to some extent by specifying a value for the `xml:space` attribute as in:

`xml:space="default"`

indicates that the default mode of handling white space should be used for the element and its descendants

`xml:space="preserve"`

indicates that all white space that is coded in the document should be included in the data that is passed from the parser to the application

Since the default behavior for HTML elements is to preserve white space, both values have the same effect and so the `xml:space` attribute can simply be omitted.

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THE END