

## HTML <datalist> Tag

#datalist# creates a list of predefined options for autocompletion. #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 `<span class="nobr"><option value>s</span>` will be displayed *after* you start typing data into the input field, then it should appear something like this:

```
 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:

```
 in IE" style="padding: 8px; background-color: #0099bb"></img>
```

... or maybe like this:

```
 in Firefox" style="padding: 8px; background-color: #0099bb"></img>
```

[back to top](#)

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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
```

```
<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 handle this.

[back to top](#)

## <datalist> Tag Attributes

### Attributes of the <datalist> tag

<a href="#">global attributes</a>	In addition to the personal attributes of the <code>&lt;datalist&gt;</code> tag below, any of the <a href="#">common HTML attributes</a> can also be coded.
id	<a href="#">id</a> <a href="#">global attribute</a> The id attribute is used to associate the data list with an <a href="#">input element</a> via the <code>&lt;input list&gt;</code> attribute.

[back to top](#)

## <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>

```

[back to top](#)

## 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.

[back to top](#)

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*THE END*