

HTML <dd> - More Than Just A Definition Description

#dd# is used for a detail description. #dd# 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 <dd> Tag for a <dfn>Detail Description</dfn>

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

The <dd> <dfn>detail description</dfn> tag is used to code the description of an item inside a [dl element](#) for a [description list](#). Note that in previous [versions of HTML](#) these were called <dfn>definition description</dfn> and [definition list](#) respectively. However, since the purpose of the [HTML <dfn> tag](#) is to code a definition, the [<dd> tag](#) in HTML 5 by itself does *not* identify the definition of a term.

When displayed with its normal style, the [flow content](#) of the **dd** element is indented under the [phrasing content](#) of the **dt** element for the [description term](#) (formerly [definition term](#)) before it:

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 [<dd> 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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<dd> Tag Syntax

Rules for coding HTML [dd](#) 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>
  ...
```

```

<a mode="pre" href=" ../dt-tag/index.html#syntax"><dt></a><a mode="pre" href=" ../..definitions
<b mode="pre"><dd></b>
  <a mode="pre" href=" ../..definitions/index.html#flow-content">... flow content ...</a>
<b mode="pre"></dd></b>
  ...
</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 **dd** elements.
2. Begin each **dd** element with a starting `<dd>` 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 **dd** element, between the `<dd>` starting tag and the `</dd>` ending tag, code the inner HTML [flow content](#) for the definition description.
4. When marking up a **dd** element with editing tags (`<ins>` or ``), code the `<ins>` tag or `` tag *inside* the `<dd>` tag.
5. End the **dd** element with a matching `</dd>` closing tag.

<dd> Content Model

The content of the **dd** element can include [HTML comments](#), [text content](#) and any [tags that can be used in flow content](#).

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<dd> Tag Attributes

Attributes of the <dd> tag

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| global attributes | In addition to the personal attributes of the <code><dd></code> tag below, any of the common HTML attributes can also be coded. |
|-----------------------------------|---|

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<dd> Tag Examples

Examples of the `dd` tag in HTML 5

Example of the `<dd>` tag in a list of definitions

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

```

<dl>
  <dt>Term: <dfn>&lt;dl&gt; tag</dfn></dt>
  <b mode="pre"><dd></b> Definition: The &lt;dl&gt; tag is used to code a description list consist
  of description terms alternating with groups of one or more detail
  descriptions.<b mode="pre"></dd></b>
  <dt>Term: <dfn>&lt;dt&gt; tag</dfn></dt>
  <b mode="pre"><dd></b> 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.<b mode="pre"></dd></b>
  <dt>Term: <dfn>&lt;dd&gt; tag</dfn></dt>
  <b mode="pre"><dd></b> 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.<b mode="pre"></dd></b>

```

```
</dl>
```

Note that since the [<dl> tag](#), [<dt> tags](#) and [<dd> tags](#) 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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Changes in HTML 5 - <dd> 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 **dd** 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