

Why <html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml"> is recommended

The <html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml"> tag includes the HTML namespace declaration. 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 <html> tag for HTML 5

The <html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml"> tag includes the HTML namespace declaration.

The <dfn style="font-style: normal"><html> tag</dfn> is the tag for the [top element](#) of an HTML document. The parent of the [html element](#) is the [root node](#) of the [DOM](#).

Inside the [html](#) element is the [head element](#) and the [body element](#). One purpose of these elements is to separate the page title and other metadata information in the [head section](#) from the actual visible content of the document in the [body section](#).

```
<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml" >
<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml" lang="en" >
<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml" lang="en" xml:lang="en" >
<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml" xml:lang="en" lang="en" >
```

The <html> tag includes an [xmlns attribute](#) that specifies the [HTML namespace](#) assigned in 1999 for the year 2000 and later [versions of HTML](#). [Namespace partitions](#) are needed to avoid naming collisions for [element types](#) in a schema (or DTD), especially if it can be used for content that may be integrated or aggregated with other content. Element types with the same name in different namespaces have completely separate definitions.

It is important for element names to be associated with the correct namespace when tags are being processed by a parser or script, using the Document Object Model or CSS for example, so the element is interpreted as the correct element type. If an element is interpreted using the wrong element type definition, the attributes and child elements will not properly match up with the element's properties and content model. (See the [difference between attributes and properties](#) if those terms are unclear.)

The HTML elements will be in the <samp>http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml</samp> namespace by default in documents that are being parsed as HTML, so the [xmlns attribute](#) is optional ... in *that* case only. When the document is being parsed as <dfn>xHTML</dfn>, the XHTML-compatible serialization of HTML, or as pure XML, however, the [xmlns attribute](#) is **required**. Therefore, it is recommended that [xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml"](#) should *a/ways* be included on the <html> tag, since it is the parser that determines how to interpret a document.

`<figure>` `<figcaption style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; margin-bottom: 1em">`When `xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml"` is required`</figcaption>`

When HTML Is Parsed As	xmlns required?
HTML	No it is assumed
xHTML	Yes, it is required
Pure XML	Yes, it is required

`</figure>`

See the [HTML Namespace Tutorial](#) for more information on namespaces in HTML.

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`<html>` Tag Syntax

```
<a mode="pre" href=".. /xml-declaration/index.html#syntax"><?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?></a>
<a mode="pre" href=".. /xml-stylesheet-instruction/index.html#syntax"><?xml-stylesheet ...?></a>
<a mode="pre" href=".. /doctype-declaration/index.html#syntax"><!DOCTYPE html></a>
<b mode="pre"><html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml"></b>
  <a mode="pre" href=".. /head-tag/index.html#syntax"><head></a>
    <a mode="pre" href=".. /definitions/index.html#metadata-content">... metadata content ...</a>
    <a mode="pre" href=".. /title-tag/index.html#syntax"><title></a> My Title</title>
    <a mode="pre" href=".. /definitions/index.html#metadata-content">... metadata content ...</a>
  </head>
  <a mode="pre" href=".. /body-tag/index.html#syntax"><body></a>
    <a mode="pre" href=".. /definitions/index.html#flow-content">... flow content ...</a>
  </body>
</b mode="pre"></html></b>
```

Rules for coding the html element for HTML 5

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

- Code the `<html>` tag after the [HTML DOCTYPE declaration](#) at the beginning of the HTML document. To put common [elements](#) in templates that can be cached by browsers to speed up page load times, optionally include an [xml-stylesheet instruction](#) before the `<html>` tag.
- The tag's element type name is `html`. The name uses lower case letters and should be in the [HTML namespace](#).
- Indicate the namespace and HTML version by coding an [xmlns attribute](#) with a value of `"http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml"` enclosed in double quotes. (For backward compatibility, the namespace from the 1999 W3C standard is used for all HTML versions from that year forward, including XHTML and HTML 5.) A [version](#) attribute should *not* be coded.
- Code a matching `</html>` end tag at the end of the document.
- Between the starting `<html>` tag and ending `</html>` tag, include a [head element](#) consisting of a starting `<head>` tag and ending `</head>` tag and a [body element](#) consisting of a starting `<body>` tag and ending `</body>` tag.

<html> Content Model

Contents of the <html> Tag

The `html` [element](#) typically contains the following child elements:

- a [head element](#) with metadata about the HTML document, and
- a [body element](#) with the content of the web page

possibly interspersed with [HTML comments](#).

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<html> Tag Attributes

Attributes of the <html> tag

global attributes	In addition to the local attributes of the <code><html></code> tag below, any of the common HTML attributes can also be coded.
<code>xmlns</code>	<p>The xmlns attribute is used to declare the namespace URIs and associated prefixes for various namespaces in HTML documents, such as:</p> <pre><code>xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml"</code></pre> <p>declares the HTML namespace as the default (no prefix)</p> <pre><code>xmlns:svg="http://www.w3.org/2000/svg"</code></pre> <p>declares a namespace URI associated with a namespace prefix, which is <code>svg:</code> in this case</p> <p>See the HTML Namespace Tutorial for more information on namespaces in HTML.</p>
<code>manifest</code>	<p>a URI reference that resolves to the URL of an <code><dfn>application cache manifest</dfn></code>, a list of files that can be cached for offline use</p> <p>For example:</p> <pre><code><samp>index.html</samp></code></pre> <pre><code><html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml" manifest="index.html"></code></pre> <pre><code><samp>cache.manifest</samp></code></pre> <pre><code># http://CACHE MANIFEST NETWORK: *</code></pre> <pre><code>CACHE:</code></pre>

	<pre>/index.html /styles/style-sheet-screen.css /styles/style-sheet-handheld.css FALLBACK: / /offline.html</pre> <p>The browser may prompt the user for permission to store the offline content, such as in Firefox:</p> <pre><img src="/images/html-manifest-attribute-firefox.png" alt="<html> manifest attribute in Firefox"></pre>
version	The <code>version</code> attribute has been deprecated. Use the xmlns attribute instead.

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<html> Tag Examples

Examples of the `html` tag in HTML 5

This is how the `<html>` tag should be used:

```
<a mode="pre" href="../xml-declaration/index.html"><?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?></a>
<a mode="pre" href="..doctype-declaration/index.html"><!DOCTYPE html></a>
<b mode="pre"><html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml"></b>
  <a mode="pre" href="..head-tag/index.html"><head></a>
    <a mode="pre" href="..title-tag/index.html"><title> Example Only</title>
    ...
  </head>
  <a mode="pre" href="..body-tag/index.html"><body></a>
  ...
</body>
<b mode="pre"></html></b>
```

The `<html>` tag should always include an `xmlns` attribute, which explicitly specifies the namespace of the **HTML elements** in the document. See the [Changes](#) below for more details. Additional namespaces, such as for MathML or [RDF](#) could also be included at this level.

Any HTML element, including the `html` element may also specify the language using the [global lang attribute](#) and, optionally, the [global xml:lang attribute](#). The `xml:lang attribute` may be specified *only* if the [lang attribute](#) is also included.

```
<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml" lang="en">
<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml" lang="en" xml:lang="en">
<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml" xml:lang="en" lang="en">
```

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Changes in HTML 5 - <html> Tag

What's new in HTML 5

In addition to the `xmlns` attribute for the [HTML namespace](#), the `<html>` tag may specify prefixes for other [element namespaces](#), such as for [SVG tags](#) or [MathML tags](#).

The [manifest](#) attribute has been added.

Differences between HTML 5 and earlier versions of HTML

In the year 2000 the [xmlns](#) attribute was introduced in [Recommendations from the W3C HTML Working Group](#) to specify the namespace of the **HTML elements**. However, many documents on the web are still coded without it and therefore may fall back to the older 1997 HTML version 4 standard, so going forward you should make sure that the <html> tag in any HTML pages include the [xmlns attribute](#).

For 2000 W3C HTML, HTML 5 and later, the **<html> tag** should be coded like this:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml">
  ...
</html>
```

In addition to being required by the 2000 W3C standard, specifying the namespace for the elements in the document using the [xmlns](#) attribute allows the documents, or a subset of nodes in the document, to be aggregated with other content. If the namespace for the elements is not specified, a reader of a combined documents created by an aggregator will be unable to distinguish the elements in one namespace from those in another. This is the biggest limitation of [RSS 0.92 version 2.0](#) although [RSS version 1.0](#) does use namespaces to solve the issue.

The following attributes should *not* be coded on the <html> tag because they either have been deprecated or were never officially supported:

- [version](#) - use the [xmlns attribute](#) described above instead

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THE END