



`<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

<a href="#">global attributes</a>	In addition to the <a href="#">local attributes</a> of the <code>&lt;html&gt;</code> tag below, any of the <a href="#">common HTML attributes</a> can also be coded.
<code>xmlns</code>	<p>The <a href="#">xmlns attribute</a> 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 <a href="#">HTML Namespace Tutorial</a> for more information on namespaces in HTML.</p>
<code>manifest</code>	<p>a <a href="#">URI reference</a> that resolves to the URL of an <code>&lt;dfn&gt;application cache manifest&lt;/dfn&gt;</code>, a list of files that can be cached for offline use</p> <p>For example:</p> <pre><code>&lt;samp&gt;index.html&lt;/samp&gt;</code></pre> <pre><code>&lt;html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml "</code></pre> <pre><code>&lt;samp&gt;cache.manifest&lt;/samp&gt;</code></pre> <pre><code># http://&lt;a mode="pre" href="http://www.ExampleO</code></pre> <pre><code>CACHE MANIFEST</code></pre> <pre><code>NETWORK:</code></pre> <pre><code>*</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>&lt;img src="/images/html-manifest-attribute-firefox.png" alt="&lt;html&gt; manifest attribute in Firefox"&gt;&lt;/img&gt;</pre>
version	The <code>version</code> attribute has been deprecated. Use the <code>xmlns attribute</code> 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*