

HTML <option> Tag for <select> List Items

#option#s for items in a #select# list drop-down box. #option# 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 <option> Tag in HTML 5

The <option> tag is used to create an item in a [drop-down box](#) in an [HTML form](#).

```
<form> <label>Language:</label> <select name="language"> <option value="">Select
  a language ...</option> <option value="cpp-c-sharp">C++ / C#</option> <option
    value="html">HTML</option> <option value="java">Java</option> <option
      value="javascript">JavaScript</option> <option value="objective-c">Objective-
        C</option> <option value="perl">Perl</option> <option value="php">PHP</
          option> <option value="ruby-on-rails">Ruby on Rails</option> </select> </form>
```

This is an actual working example of the [<option> tag example code](#) below.

One alternative, for an autocomplete dropdown, uses an [<input> tag](#) that references a [<datalist> tag](#) instead:

```
</img>
```

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<option> Tag Syntax

Rules for coding HTML `option` 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="../form-tag/index.html#syntax">form</a>  method="POST" action="<i mod
    <a mode="pre" href=".../definitions/index.html#flow-content">... flow content ...</a>
    <a mode="pre" href="../select-tag/index.html#syntax"><select></a>
      ...
      <b mode="pre"><option value="...">...</option></b>
      ...
    </select>
    <a mode="pre" href=".../definitions/index.html#flow-content">... flow content ...</a>
  </form>
  ...
</body>
```

Rules for coding the HTML option element

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 [select element](#), include an **option** element for each option in the select list.

2. Begin the **option** element with a starting `<option>` 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 `<option>` tag, code a [value attribute](#) with the value of the field that is to be sent to the destination specified in the [<form action> attribute](#).
4. Inside the **option** element, between the starting `<option>` tag and the ending `</option>` tag, code the [text content](#) of the option.
5. End the **option** element with a matching `</option>` closing tag.

<option> Content Model

The content of the **option** element can include [HTML comments](#) and [text content](#). It should not have any child elements.

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<option> Tag Attributes

Attributes of the <option> tag

global attributes	In addition to the personal attributes of the <code><option></code> tag below, any of the common HTML attributes can also be coded.
<code>disabled="disabled"</code>	Sets the value of the <code><option disabled></code> boolean attribute to <code>true</code> . Omitting it sets to <code>false</code> .
<code>label</code>	
<code>selected="selected"</code>	Sets the value of the <code><option selected></code> boolean attribute to <code>true</code> . Omitting it sets to <code>false</code> .
<code>value</code>	

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<option> Tag Examples

Examples of the `option` tag in HTML 5

Example of `<option>` tags under an [HTML <select> tag](#) for options in an [HTML drop-down box](#)

```
<form method="POST" action="development-language.cgi">
  <label>Language:</label>
  <select name="language">
    <option value="">Select a language ...</option>
    <option value="cpp-c-sharp">C++ / C#</option>
    <option value="html">HTML</option>
    <option value="java">Java</option>
    <option value="javascript">JavaScript</option>
    <option value="objective-c">Objective-C</option>
    <option value="perl">Perl</option>
    <option value="php">PHP</option>
    <option value="ruby-on-rails">Ruby on Rails</option>
  </select>
</form>
```

Example of <option> tags for [options in a <datalist>](#)

```
<form method="post" action="">
  <input name="datalist-item" list="datalist-items" size="40"
    style="border: 1px solid black"
  />
  <datalist id="datalist-items">
    <p>Your browser does not support the HTML 5 <datalist> tag yet.<br/>
      (This is the fallback code - you should only see one text item below.)
    </p>
    <option value="datalist item without label"/>
    <option value="datalist item with label" label="label for datalist item"/>
    <option value="datalist item with text">text for datalist item</option>
    <optgroup label="Grouped items">
      <option value="optgroup item without label"/>
      <option value="optgroup item with label" label="label for optgroup
item"/>
    </optgroup>
  </datalist>
</form>
```

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. Therefore, it is better to use the `label` attribute for the label instead.

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Changes in HTML 5 - <option> 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 `option` 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