

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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> itemscopehttp://data-vocabulary.org/Breadcrumbitemprop="title">Examples

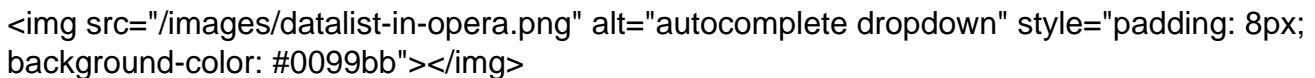
The <option> Tag in HTML 5

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:

A screenshot of an Opera browser window showing an autocomplete dropdown menu. The menu lists several programming languages: C++, C#, HTML, Java, JavaScript, Objective-C, Perl, PHP, and Ruby on Rails. The menu is triggered by a text input field containing the letters 'Ruby'.

[back to top](#)

<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 mode="pre" href=".../definitions/index.html#flow-content">... flow content ...</i></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.

[back to top](#)

<option> Tag Attributes

Attributes of the <option> tag

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

[back to top](#)

<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.

[back to top](#)

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.

[back to top](#)

THE END