

## HTML <th> Tag for Table Column Headings

#th# is for table column headings, which can span multiple columns. #th# 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 <th> Tag in HTML 5

#### The <th> tag for table heading cells

The <th> table heading cell tag divides a table row into individual cells, like the <td> [table detail cell tag](#), but is used for headings in a table. A column heading is usually included above a column in a table and can span multiple columns of the table, but other headings may appear elsewhere, such as the row headings in the example HTML table below. The style of a heading may be different from the rest of the cells in the same column or row - for example, by default the text is centered. In the table example below, there are three column headings and two row headings created by the <th> tag.

#### HTML <table> Demo

	#Multiple Column Heading#	
#First Column Heading#	#Second Column Heading#	
#Row 1#	Row 1 Column 1	Row 1 Column 2
#Row 2#	Row 2 Column 1	Row 2 Column 2
This is an example of an HTML table footer.		

This is an actual working demo of the [table heading example code](#) below. (Do *View Source* to verify that this page is using the [HTML 5 DOCTYPE](#). You can also verify it is [Valid HTML 5](#) using the [HTML Validator](#). Try using it to validate URLs with HTML examples from other places that claim to be HTML 5 web sites!)

The <th> tag is similar to the <td> [tag](#) in that both can be used within a [tr element](#). One important difference, however, is that while the <td> [tag](#) is one of the [sectioning root tags](#), which starts a new [section outline](#) for the content of the [td element](#), the <th> tag is *not* and therefore contributes to the same [section outline](#) as its ancestors.

See the tutorial on [Creating HTML Tables](#) for full details on [how to create an HTML table](#) using the [HTML table tags](#) together.

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### <th> Tag Syntax

```

<a mode="pre" href=" ../html-tag-list.html#flow-content-model">... flow content expected ...</a>
<a mode="pre" href=" ../table-tag/index.html#syntax"><table></a>
  <a mode="pre" href=" ../thead-tag/index.html#syntax"><thead></a>
    <a mode="pre" href=" ../tr-tag/index.html#syntax"><tr></a>
      <b mode="pre"><th colspan="n"></b> ...<b mode="pre"></th></b>
      ...
    </tr>
    <a mode="pre" href=" ../tr-tag/index.html#syntax"><tr></a>
      <b mode="pre"><th></b> ...<b mode="pre"></th></b>
      ...
    </tr>
  </thead>
  <a mode="pre" href=" ../tbody-tag/index.html#syntax"><tbody></a>
  ...
</tbody>
</table>
...
</body>

```

**Rules for coding the HTML `th` 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 [tr element](#) code one or more `th` elements, one for each heading cell in the row.
2. Begin the element for each heading cell with a starting `<th>` 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. Include any [attributes](#) of the `<th>` tag as appropriate. The [colspan attribute](#) and [rowspan attribute](#) allow merging cells from multiple heading columns and/or rows.
4. End the `th element` with a matching `</th>` closing tag. (To ensure tags match up properly, it helps to code the starting and ending tags first, then fill in between them.)
5. Between the `<th>` starting tag and the `</th>` ending tag include the inner HTML [flow content](#) for the heading.
6. Code separate `th` elements for any additional headings in the same table row before the `</tr>` tag for the end of the row.

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**<th> Tag Attributes**

**Attributes of the `<th>` tag**

<a href="#">global attributes</a>	In addition to the personal attributes of the <code>&lt;th&gt;</code> tag below, any of the <a href="#">common HTML attributes</a> can also be coded.
colspan	merges the cells from the specified number of columns into a single cell
rowspan	merges the cells from the specified number of rows into a single cell
headers	a list of references to the <code>id</code> attribute of <code>&lt;th&gt;</code> headings applicable to the cell, separated by spaces if more than one

	This might be used when some columns of the table are grouped under higher level headings. The individual column headings can reference the higher level heading groups, which would probably span multiple columns.
<pre>scope="col" scope="row" scope="colgroup" scope="rowgroup"</pre>	

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## <th> Tag Examples

### Examples of the `th` tag in HTML 5

Here is the HTML code for the [HTML table demo](#) above:

```
<table>
  <caption>Table Caption</caption>
  <colgroup>
    <col style="width: 20%" />
    <col style="width: 80%" />
  </colgroup>
  <thead>
    <tr>
      <b mode="pre"><th rowspan="2"></th></b>
      <b mode="pre"><th colspan="2">Multiple Column Heading</th></b>
    </tr>
    <tr style="vertical-align: bottom">
      <b mode="pre"><th>First Column Heading</th></b>
      <b mode="pre"><th>Second Column Heading</th></b>
    </tr>
  </thead>
  <tfoot>
    <tr><td colspan="2">This is an example of an HTML table footer.</td></tr>
  </tfoot>
  <tbody>
    <tr>
      <td>Row 1 Column 1</td>
      <td>Row 1 Column 2</td>
    </tr>
    <tr>
      <td>Row 2 Column 1</td>
      <td>Row 2 Column 2</td>
    </tr>
  </tbody>
</table>
```

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## Changes in HTML 5 - <th> Tag

### What's new in HTML 5

#### Differences between HTML 5 and earlier versions of HTML

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

- `abbr`
- `align`
- `axis`
- `bgcolor`
- `char`
- `charoff`
- `height`
- `nowrap`
- `scope`
- `valign`
- `width`

The [2000-2010 Recommendations from the W3C HTML Working Group](#) defined the [HTML namespace](#) for the **th** 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*