

# HTML <u> Underline Tag No Longer Deprecated

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#u# creates underlined text. #u# 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 <u> Tag in HTML

Note: Contrary to the reports on other web sites and blogs, the <u> tag is **not** deprecated in HTML 5 and later. See [Changes in HTML 5](#) below.

The <u> tag is used to visually highlight some content, without imparting any audible emphasis to it. Browsers will normally underline the text inside the **u** element, which draws the text with a solid underscore line.

In some languages the underline has a special meaning. In Chinese for example, a single straight underline is used to indicate a proper name, which can allow distinguishing one name from others marked in the same manner, and a wavy underline is similarly used to indicate the title of a book or other work of literature.

Here is a demo of HTML code for an entry in a bibliography:

- Rand, Ayn. <u>Atlas Shrugged</u>. New York: Random House, 1957; New York: Plume, 1999.

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

In other contexts, use of the **u** element is discouraged for a number of reasons:

1. underlined text that is not clickable can easily be confused with a hypertext link, especially in circumstances when their color cannot be used to distinguish between them
2. for the [separation of style and content](#), style information should be put into [Cascading Style Sheets \(CSS\)](#)

Therefore, the <u> tag should be avoided when possible. In most cases there are other HTML tags that would be more appropriate:

- the [<b> tag](#) can be used to highlight important words or phrases
- the [<cite> tag](#) can be used to display the title of a book or other creative work
- the [<em> tag](#) can be used to mark up text that is to be emphasized
- the [<mark> tag](#) can be used to mark words or phrases such as search terms
- the [<strong> tag](#) can be used to mark up text that is to be strongly emphasized

Text can also be underlined using the [CSS `text-decoration: underline` property](#).

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## <u> Tag Syntax

```
<a mode="pre" href="../body-tag/index.html#syntax"><body></a>
...
  <a mode="pre" href="../html-tag-list.html#phrasing-content-model">... phrasing content expected
...
</body>
```

### Rules for coding the HTML **u** 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. Verify that the purpose for using the <u> tag cannot be served better using another tag such as:

- [<b> tag](#)
- [<cite> tag](#)
- [<em> tag](#)
- [<mark> tag](#)
- [<strong> tag](#)

2. Code the **u** element where [phrasing content](#) is expected.

3. Begin the **u** element with a starting <u> 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.

4. Include any [HTML global attributes on the <u> tag](#) as appropriate.

5. Inside the **u** element, between the starting <u> tag and the ending </u> tag, code the inner HTML [phrasing content](#).

6. End the **u** element with a matching </u> closing tag.

### Content Model

The content of the **u** element can include [HTML comments](#), [text content](#) and only those [HTML tags that can be used in phrasing content](#).

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## <u> Tag Attributes

### Attributes of the <u> tag

<a href="#">global attributes</a>	The only attributes that can be coded on the <u> tag are the <a href="#">common HTML attributes</a> .
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## <u> Tag Examples

### Examples of the **u** tag in HTML

#### HTML Code for Bibliography Entry

```
<ul style="margin: 0; list-style: none">
  <li>Rand, Ayn. <b mode="pre"><u></b> Atlas Shrugged<b mode="pre"></u></b> . New York: Random House
2
```

&lt;/ul&gt;

The `style="margin: 0; list-style: none"` attribute creates the unordered list without bullets, eliminating the margin space where the bullets would normally appear.

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### Changes in HTML 5 - <u> Tag

The <u> tag was deprecated in [HTML 4](#) and considered invalid in later versions, but has now been added back into the WHATWG [HTML Living Standard](#) and <span class="nobr">W3C HTML 5</span> (after the two versions diverged - see [difference between HTML 5 and HTML Living Standard](#)). Therefore, whether or not the **u** element is valid depends on the [version of HTML](#):

- HTML 2 and earlier - <u> tag did not exist
- HTML 3.2 - <u> tag added
- HTML 4 - <u> tag deprecated, invalid in HTML 4 strict DTD
- XHTML - <u> tag invalid
- WHATWG HTML 5 - **u** element invalid
- WHATWG [HTML Living Standard](#) - **u** element added
- W3C HTML 5 - **u** element added

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***THE END***