HTML cheat sheet – including HTML 5

**BASIC SYNTAX**

HTML is a basic mark up language that follows a simple set of rules (syntax). The tags enclose content which is thus “marked up” and the tags contain information about what do or how to display the item.

An HTML file is called an HTML document and the tags are called Elements (of the document).

Most HTML tags come in pairs. The tags are defined by angular parenthesis which open and shut around the tag name. For XHTML “all tags” must shut by the inclusion of the “/” in the closing tag.

**<p>This is a paragraph</p>**

Some HTML tags come in singles – not pairs. These tags are also in angular parenthesis which open and shut but they are just placed on the page where you want them to appear or at the end of a line of text. In the XHTML standard “all tags” still must shut by the inclusion of the “/” before the single tag closing parenthesis. Not closing these is fine in HTML 5 but is often done for consistency and safety in older browsers anyway.

**<img /> or <img> in HTML5**

**<br /> or <br> in HTML5**

Attributes are often added to HTML tags.

Some attributes are necessary on some tags (required attributes), and some can be added by choice (optional attributes).

Attributes are coded in name value pairs like this.

**name=”value” (this is the attribute)**

Attributes are added in the opening tag of a pair

**<p name=”value”>This is a paragraph</p> (attribute inside a p tag)**

OR added after the tag name in a single tag like this.

**<img name=”value” /> (attribute placed inside an image tag)**

Most tags can have multiple attributes which are formed in the same way and simply listed in the same place as single attributes (ie the opening tag of a pair or after the tag name in a single) and they are separated by spaces.

**<img src=”url of the image” alt=”describe” title=”title” />**

Some tags have attributes that are a vital component of the tag or it won’t work properly. These are called required attributes. They must be there or the element may not be displayed at all or not displayed correctly or will not be usable.

**<img src=”url of the image” /> (an image must have a source – src)**

**<a href=”url of the link” /> (hyperlink must have a destination - href)**

**PAGE STRUCTURE TAGS**

**<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Transitional//EN" "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-transitional.dtd">**

Specifies the HTML version the page is authored in, and adds relevant DTD information. Note that in some browsers the DOCTYPE declaration forces the browser to use standards mode rather than “quirks” mode.

The most common Doctype is for HTML 5

**<!DOCTYPE html>**

**<html></html>**  
Creates an HTML document

**<head></head>**  
Sets off the title and other information that isn't displayed on the Web page itself

**<body></body>**  
Sets off the visible portion of the document

**TAGS FOUND INSIDE THE HEAD TAG**

**<title></title>**  
Puts the name of the document in the title bar

**<meta name=”keywords” content=”comma, separated, list, of, words and phrases”>**  
Adds keyword meta data to the page

**<meta name=”description” content=”describes the web page”>**  
Adds a description to the page

**<meta name=”robots” content=”index, follow”>**  
Adds a robots instruction to tell search engine bots what to do

**<link href=”location and name of css file” rel=”stylesheet” type=”text/css” media=”screen”>**  
Embeds an external style sheet file (.css) into the page.

**<script src=”location and name of javascript file” type=”text/javascript” language=”javascript”></script>**  
Embeds an external javascript file (.js) into the page.

**CONTAINER TAGS**

**<div></div>**  
A generic block element (box) used to hold other areas of html – now used instead of table cells

**<span></span>**  
A generic in-line (sits in the flow of text) element used to add structure within a block level element

**<article></article>**

Defines an independent, self-contained content article. An article should make sense on its’ own and it should be possible to distribute it independently from the rest of the site.

**<aside></aside>**  
Defines some content aside from the content it is placed in. The aside content should be related to the surrounding content.

**<section></section>**  
Defines sections in a document. Such as chapters, headers, footers, or any other sections of the document.

**<nav></nav>**  
Defines navigation links (usually contains <a> tags and other structures like lists)

**<header></header>**  
Defines a header for a document or section

**<footer></footer>**  
Defines a footer of a document or section

**<figure></figure>**  
Specifies self contained content

**<figcaption></figcaption>**  
Defines a caption for a figure

**BASIC TEXT TAGS**

**<hl></hl>**  
Creates the largest headline

**<h6></h6>**  
Creates the smallest headline

**<p></p>**  
Creates a new paragraph

**<br />**  
Inserts a line break

**<blockquote></blockquote>**   
Marks text as a quotation (indents by default)

**<em></em>**  
Emphasizes a word (with italic or bold)

**<strong></strong>**   
Emphasizes a word (stronger than em)

**LINKS**

**<a></a>**  
Basic hyperlink tag

**<a href="URL"></a>**  
Creates a hyperlink by adding the location of the link

**<a href="mailto:EMAIL"></a>**  
Creates a mailto link

**<a name="NAME"></a>**  
Creates a target location within a document

**<a href="#NAME"></a>**  
Links to that target location from elsewhere in the document

**LISTS**

**<dl></dl>**  
Creates a definition list

**<dt>**  
Creates a definition term which precedes each definition term

**<dd>**  
Creates a definition meaning

**<ol></ol>**  
Creates a numbered (ordered) list

**<ul></ul>**  
Creates a bulleted (unordered) list

**<li></li>**  
Creates a list item, and adds a number or bullet

**GRAPHICAL ELEMENTS**

**<img />**  
Basic image tag

**<img src="url" />**  
Adds an image through the “src” attribute which is the location of the image on the server

**<img src="url" alt=”descriptive alt text” />**  
Aligns an image: left, right, center; bottom, top, middle

**<img src="url" alt=”descriptive alt text” title=”image title”>**  
Aligns an image: left, right, center; bottom, top, middle

**<hr />**  
Inserts a horizontal rule

**MULTI MEDIA**

**<video></video>**  
Creates a video container

**<audio></audio>**  
Creates an audio container

**<source>**  
Specifies the source files for audio and video containers – can be multiple sources.

**Useful attributes for Audio/Video**

**controls**  
Specifies if player controls should be shown

**src**  
Specifies the URL of the video file (can be used on the audio, video or source tags)

**loop**  
Specifies if the video or audio should loop back to the beginning after it finishes

**autoplay**  
The video or audio will play automatically as soon as it is ready

**poster**  
Specifies an image to be shown while the video or audio downloads or before play control is used

**preload**  
Controls the preload of the video alongside the page load

**TABLES**

**<table></table>**  
Creates a table

**<thead></thead>**  
Groups the header content of a table

**<tbody></tbody>**  
Groups the body content of a table

**<tfoot></tfoot>**  
Groups the footer content of a table

**<colgroup></colgroup>**  
Specifies a group of one or more columns in a table (usually used for formatting).

**<col></col>**  
Specifies column properties for each column within a <colgroup> element

**<tr></tr>**  
Sets off each row in a table

**<td></td>**  
Sets off each cell in a row

**<th></th>**  
Sets off the table header (a normal cell with bold, centered text)

**<caption></caption>**  
Adds a caption to the table.

**<table summary=”my table”></table>**  
The summary attribute allows the addition of a table summary

**FRAMES and iFrames**

Frames used to be used to create frame zones of a page. If you see frames or frame attributes now you are probably looking at a really old web page and these are no longer supported in HTML5 so should be avoided.

The exception is an iFrame which is one way of embedding content from another website or provider into a page.

**<iframe>**  
Defines an inline frame

**FORMS**

For functional forms, you'll have to run scripts to make the form do anything.

Typically the action attribute specifies what happens to the form field values when the form is submitted using the submit input type.

The HTML creates the elements of a form.

**<form></form>**  
Creates a form

**<form action=”script” method=”post”></form>**  
The action attribute calls the script that process the form, and method describes the means (post or get)

**Form specific container elements**

**<label>**Defines the label for each input and is required. The label is usually “bonded” to the input using the “for” attribute and specifying the same value as the “id” of the input itself.

**<fieldset>**Defines a container within a form used to group common form inputs together.

**<legend>**  
Used within a <fieldset> to label the fieldset group

**Common form inputs**

**<select name="name"></select>**  
Creates a pulldown menu

**<option value=”uk”>**  
Specifies the option value pairs within a <select> tag. (Note the values value is sent to form processing)

**<optgroup label=”name the grouping”>**  
Allows you to group option value pairs within a select.

**<textarea name="name" id=”name”></textarea>**  
Creates a text box area. Columns set the width; rows set the height.

**<input type=”name of the input type”>**  
Creates a form input.

Note the type attribute defines the nature of the input and the kind of data it can/should accept.

**Common input types**

**type=”text”**

Creates a simple text box

**type="checkbox"**  
Creates a checkbox.

**type="radio"**  
Creates a radio button.

**type="submit"**  
Creates a Submit button (which send the data to the form action).

**type="image"**  
Creates a Submit button using an image

**type="reset"**  
Creates a Reset button which clears the form data when used.

**Newer form inputs in HTML 5**

**type=”button”**

Creates a clickable button – usually used with a javascript action

**type="color"**  
Creates a colour picker

**type="email"**  
Creates an email field

**type="date"**  
Creates a date picker

**type="range"**  
Creates a range control – usually a slider

**type="tel"**  
Creates a telephone field

**type="url"**Creates a URL field

**USEFUL GENERAL ATTRIBUTES**

**name=**  
Places a name of an item (can be used as a named anchor)

**id=**  
Gives an item a unique id (note id’s must be unique)

**class=**  
Creates a CSS class attribute (can be assigned many times on the page)

**style=**  
Adds a set of low level CSS style rules to this item only

**title=**  
Titles the item

**alt=**  
Must be used to add a description to an image

**summary=**  
Used to summarise table data

**href=http://www.mysite.com/index.htm**

Used to add a url link to an a tag or a link tag

**src=./images/image.gif**

Used to add the location of the image to an image tag