

Advanced Table HTML Quick Reference Guide

Tags

<table> Identifies the start of the table and contains attributes that apply to the entire table.

NOTE: The following guidelines are only for coding tables with Excel-like data. Tables that are only used for formatting should NOT be coded for accessibility.

<th> Identifies column and row headings with the TH tag. If you are converting a <TD> to a <TH> to make an existing table accessible, don't forget to change the closing </TD> to a </TH>.

<td> the data cell

<thead>, **<tbody>****<tfoot>** repeating groups of rows

<caption> visible title to the table, appearing above or below the table (set by attribute)

Attributes

axis (used in <th>) adds an invisible layer of organization to the table headings. AXIS is used to categorize headings. Multiple values can be used, comma separated.

```
<th id="pDate" axis="When">Purchase  
Date</th>
```

abbr (used in <th> and <td>) provides an abbreviated form of the cells content, useful when the cell will be repeated often.

```
<TH abbr="Date" id="Pdate">Purchase  
Date</TH>
```

headers (used in <td>) specifies the list of header cells that identifies the data in the cell by matching the ID attribute in the <th>. Multiple headers values are separated by spaces.

id (used in <th> for table accessibility markup. Can be used in most tags for other purposes.) associates a specific column or row heading with specific data cells.

```
<th id="KKD">Krispy Kreme Donuts</th>  
<td headers="Pdate KKD">12/13/02</td>  
<td headers="Cost KKD">12.00</td>
```

summary (used only in <table>) The summary is no more than a sentence and only in the table with data. The summary is not visible and is read first by a screen reader.

```
<table summary="list of open bugs">
```

scope (used in <th> or <td>) Value is "row", "col", "colgroup", "rowgroup". Use scope="row" or scope="col" is used to discriminate between the horizontal and vertical headings. Scope can also be used in a <TD> to identify the cell contents as a heading to the row or column. Scope="rowgroup" can be used to identify the cell contents as the header for a section of <thead>, <tbody> or <tfoot>.

```
<th scope="col">Cost of Goods Sold</th>  
<th scope="row">Sub Totals</th>  
<td scope="row"> Date Sold</td>
```

Coding Complex tables

Complex tables have multiple levels of headings or an irregular shape that need more organizational help than simple headings. Use the id to uniquely identify the header TH. The abbr= attribute determines what will be read by the screen reader for the heading. This can be shorter than the full column heading as it will be repeated many times. Attribute values can be variables.

```
<TH abbr="Date" id="Pdate">Purchase  
Date</TH>
```

Each TD with the actual data in it, gets a headers= attribute. The "headers=" matches the "id=" values that you assigned to the TH separated by spaces.

If there are multiple levels of data, you can have multiple entries in the <TD headers=""> attribute to completely identify that individual cells.

```
<th id="KKD">KKD</th>  
<td headers="Sdate KKD Purchases">  
12/13/02</td><td headers="Cost KKD  
Purchases">36.00</td>
```

It doesn't work across tables. Headers and Data must be in the same table.

Sample Table Code

```
<table summary="Sentence that describes  
the contents of the table">  
<caption>Sample Complex Table</caption>  
<tr>  
<th abbr="page" id="pageNo">Page  
Name</th>  
<th id="cat">Category</th>  
<th abbr="tool" id="acc" axis="test  
results">Accessibility Tool Test</th>  
<th abbr="manual" id="man" axis="test  
results">Manual Test</th>  
<th abbr="jaws" id="jaws" axis="test  
results">JAWS test</th>  
</tr>  
<tr>  
<th id="home">Home</th>  
<td headers="home cat">Common</td>  
<td headers="home acc">4</td>  
<td headers="home man">2</td>  
<td headers="home jaws">3</td>  
</tr>  
<tr>  
<th id="res">Resources Welcome</th>  
<td>Resources</td>  
<td>6</td>  
<td>0</td>  
</tr>  
<tr>  
<th colspan="2" id="tot">Totals:</th>  
<td headers="tot acc">10</td>  
<td headers="tot man">2</td>  
<td headers="tot jaws">3</td>  
</tr>  
</table>
```

Code As Rendered

Page Name	Category	Accessibility Tool Test	Manual Test	JAWS test
Home	Common	4	2	3
Resources Welcome	Resources	6	0	1
Totals:		10	2	3