

## Intro to HTML tables

Before CSS was available, tables were used to create a web page layout. Web page layouts based on tables were very complex. They included multiple tables nested within table cells and transparent images to create spacing on the page. Usually these pages involved extra and extra coding, were slow to download, and required extra time for browsers to render them. In addition, they presented accessibility problem for people with disabilities.

According to World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) recommendations, web designers should avoid using tables for web page layouts. Although you can find a lot of web pages on the web, based on table structure, CSS positioning becomes more and more popular providing efficient control over the layout of the pages without the downside of table-based layouts. Use HTML tables to present data in a tabular format.

### Table structure

As with any other tables, such as spreadsheet, HTML tables consist of rows and columns with the actual table data included in table cells.

Start table with opening **<table>** tag and close it with closing **</table>** tag. Within **<table>**, include one or more rows.

Each row starts with **<tr>** and ends with **</tr>** tag. Within the rows you can use two kinds of cells: table headers **<th></th>** and table data **<td></td>**.

**<th>** is optional tag. It creates header cells and displays text in boldface and centers it in the cell.

You can also include **<caption></caption>** tag to add table caption.

The **<caption>** tag is optional tag which creates a caption above the table.

You can include caption immediately after the **<table>** opening tag.

### Table tags

Table element	Tag	Description
Table	<code>&lt;table&gt; ... &lt;/table&gt;</code>	Creates a table. Includes all other table elements. Required
Table row	<code>&lt;tr&gt; ... &lt;/tr&gt;</code>	Contains all table cells. Required
Table data	<code>&lt;td&gt; ... &lt;/td&gt;</code>	Includes actual content, nested within <code>&lt;tr&gt;</code>

Table header	<code>&lt;th&gt; ... &lt;/th&gt;</code>	Creates table headers, usually in the top row or left column. Optional element
Table caption - optional element	<code>&lt;caption&gt; ... &lt;/caption&gt;</code>	Creates caption for a table

**Example of code:**

```

<table>
<caption>Tbl.1 - Price list</caption>
<tr>
  <th>Item No.</th>
  <th>Description</th>
  <th>Price</th>
</tr>
<tr>
  <td>123</td>
  <td>Blue pen</td>
  <td>$0.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
  <td>345</td>
  <td>green pen</td>
  <td>$0.99</td>
</tr>
</table>

```

**Display:**

Tbl.1 - Price list

Item No.	Description	Price
123	Blue pen	\$0.45
345	green pen	\$0.99

You can add any content to a table cells: images, lists, links, etc.

Remember, you cannot add any content between `<table>` and `<tr>` or between `<td>` and `</td>`. Any content can be only included within `<td>` and `</td>` or `<th>` and `</th>`.