

HTML Table Attributes Guide

Comprehensive Study & Reviewer Reference Manual

Overview: This study guide covers primary HTML table tags and attributes, including structural elements (caption, colgroup) and standard layout attributes (colspan, rowspan, cellpadding, cellspacing).

colspan Attribute

Specifies the number of columns a single table cell (<td> or <th>) should span horizontally across the table grid.

```
<table border="1">
  <tr>
    <th colspan="2">Full Name</th> <!-- Spans 2 columns -->
  </tr>
  <tr>
    <td>First Name</td>
    <td>Last Name</td>
  </tr>
</table>
```

rowspan Attribute

Specifies the number of rows a single cell (<td> or <th>) should span vertically down the table grid.

```
<table border="1">
  <tr>
    <td rowspan="2">Merged Rows</td> <!-- Spans 2 rows -->
    <td>Row 1, Cell 2</td>
  </tr>
  <tr>
    <td>Row 2, Cell 2</td>
  </tr>
</table>
```

cellpadding Attribute (HTML4 / Deprecated)

Defines the whitespace (in pixels) between the cell content and its inner borders. *Note: In modern development, CSS padding is preferred.*

```
<table cellpadding="10" border="1">
  <tr>
    <td>Adds 10px inner padding around cell content</td>
  </tr>
</table>
```

cellspacing Attribute (HTML4 / Deprecated)

Defines the space (in pixels) between individual table cells. *Note: In modern CSS, border-spacing or border-collapse is preferred.*

```
<table cellspacing="5" border="1">
  <tr>
    <td>Cell A</td>
    <td>Cell B (5px gap between cells)</td>
  </tr>
</table>
```

<caption> Tag

Adds a title or description to the table. Must be placed directly after the opening <table> tag.

```
<table border="1">
  <caption>Monthly Sales Report 2026</caption>
  <tr>
    <th>Month</th>
    <th>Sales</th>
  </tr>
</table>
```

<colgroup> Tag

Specifies a group of one or more columns in a table for formatting purposes, allowing styling to be applied across entire columns using <col>.

```
<table border="1">
  <colgroup>
    <col style="background-color: #edf2f7;"> <!-- Style Col 1 -->
    <col span="2" style="background-color: #feebc8;"> <!-- Style Cols 2 & 3 -->
  </colgroup>
  <tr>
    <th>ID</th>
    <th>Item</th>
    <th>Price</th>
  </tr>
</table>
```