

LEARNING  
TO LOVE  
FORMS  
WEBVISIONS 2007



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FORMS ARE  
A NECESSARY  
EVIL

# SIMPLE FORM: CONTACT US

Send us a message

Name

Email

Message

Go

## SIMPLE FORM: CONTACT US



Send us a message

Name

Email

Message

Go

### FORM Element establishes a form

ACTION is the only required attribute and should always be a URI

METHOD defaults to “get”

NAME is depreciated; use ID instead

```
<form id="contact-form"  
      action="/action-page.php"  
      method="post">
```

```
<!-- the rest of our form will go here -->
```

```
</form>
```

## SIMPLE FORM: CONTACT US



Send us a message

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**FIELDSET Element**  
used to group related fields

**LEGEND Element**  
used to provide a caption for  
a FIELDSET

```
<form id="contact-form" action="/action-page.php" method="post">  
  <fieldset>  
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>  
  
    <!-- the rest of our form will go here -->  
  
  </fieldset>  
</form>
```

## SIMPLE FORM: CONTACT US

Send us a message

Name	<input type="text"/>
Email	<input type="text"/>
Message	<input type="text"/>

Go

## Containing FORM Controls

P or DIV

sensible choices, but not  
very accurate (except in  
certain instances)

OL or UL

most forms are lists of  
questions or form controls,  
so these are better

```
<form id="contact-form" action="/action-page.php" method="post">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <p><!-- form control --></p>
    <p><!-- form control --></p>
    <p><!-- form control --></p>
  </fieldset>
</form>
```

```
<form id="contact-form" action="/action-page.php" method="post">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <ol>
      <li><!-- form control --></li>
      <li><!-- form control --></li>
      <li><!-- form control --></li>
    </ol>
  </fieldset>
</form>
```

## SIMPLE FORM: CONTACT US

Send us a message

Name

Email

Message

Go

### INPUT Text Control

`type="name"` is a basic text input field

(also `type="password"` for content you want encrypted)

### NAME vs. ID

NAME is for the back end

ID is for the front end

```
<form id="contact-form" action="#" method="post">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <ol>
      <li>Name
        <input type="text" name="name"
          id="contact-name" /></li>
      <li>Email
        <input type="text" name="email"
          id="contact-email" /></li>
      <li><!-- form control --></li>
    </ol>
  </fieldset>
</form>
```



## SIMPLE FORM: CONTACT US

Send us a message

Name

Email

Message

Go

### TEXTAREA

a multiline text form control

requires ROWS and COLS  
attributes!!!

```
<form id="contact-form" action="#" method="post">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <ol>
      <li>Name
        <input type="text" name="name" id="contact-name" /></li>
      <li>Email
        <input type="text" name="email" id="contact-email" /></li>
      <li>Message
        <textarea name="message"
          id="contact-message"
          rows="4" cols="30"></textarea></li>
    </ol>
  </fieldset>
</form>
```

## SIMPLE FORM: CONTACT US

### Working with LABEL

this element provides to means of associating its content with a form control:

#### implicit association

LABEL wraps the form control and the text

#### explicit association

LABEL's FOR attribute is an ID reference to the form control

```
<form id="contact-form" action="/action-page.php" method="post">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <ol>
      <li><label>Name
        <input ... /></label></li>
      ...
    </ol>
  </fieldset>
</form>
```

```
<form id="contact-form" action="/action-page.php" method="post">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <ol>
      <li><label for="contact-name">Name</label>
        <input id="contact-name" ... /></li>
      ...
    </ol>
  </fieldset>
</form>
```

## SIMPLE FORM: CONTACT US

Send us a message

Name

Email

Message

### Buttons

trigger events in a form; use either `INPUT` or `BUTTON` element

### Common TYPES

`submit` - submits the form;  
default button type

`reset` - resets all form control values back to their defaults when the page loaded

```
<form id="contact-form" action="#" method="post">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <ol>
      ...
    </ol>
    <input type="submit" value="Go" />
  </fieldset>
</form>
```

```
<form id="contact-form" action="#" method="post">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <ol>
      ...
    </ol>
    <button type="submit">Go</button>
  </fieldset>
</form>
```

## SIMPLE FORM: CONTACT US

Send us a message

1. Name
2. Email
3. Message

```
<form id="contact-form" action="#" method="post">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <ol>
      <li><label for="contact-name">Name</label>
        <input type="text" id="contact-name"
          name="name" /></li>
      <li><label for="contact-email">Email</label>
        <input type="text" id="contact-email"
          name="email" /></li>
      <li><label for="contact-message">Message</label>
        <textarea id="contact-message"
          name="message" rows="4"
          cols="30"></textarea></li>
    </ol>
    <button type="submit">Go</button>
  </fieldset>
</form>
```

## SIMPLE FORM: CONTACT US

```
body {
  font: 62.5%
  "Lucida Sans Unicode",
  "Lucida Grande",
  sans-serif;
}
ol, ul, p {
  font-size: 1.2em;
  line-height: 1.5;
}
```

```
<form id="contact-form" action="#" method="post">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <ol>
      <li><label for="contact-name">Name</label>
        <input type="text" id="contact-name" name="name" /></li>
      <li><label for="contact-email">Email</label>
        <input type="text" id="contact-email" name="email" /></li>
      <li><label for="contact-message">Message</label>
        <textarea id="contact-message" name="message" rows="4"
          cols="30"></textarea></li>
    </ol>
    <button type="submit">Go</button>
  </fieldset>
</form>
```

## SIMPLE FORM: CONTACT US

```
form, fieldset, legend {
  border: 0;
  padding: 0;
  margin: 0;
}
legend {
  font-size: 2em;
}
form ol, form ul {
  list-style: none;
  margin: 0;
  padding: 0;
}
```

Send us a message

Name

Email

Message

Go

```
<form id="contact-form" action="#" method="post">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <ol>
      <li><label for="contact-name">Name</label>
        <input type="text" id="contact-name" name="name" /></li>
      <li><label for="contact-email">Email</label>
        <input type="text" id="contact-email" name="email" /></li>
      <li><label for="contact-message">Message</label>
        <textarea id="contact-message" name="message" rows="4"
          cols="30"></textarea></li>
    </ol>
    <button type="submit">Go</button>
  </fieldset>
</form>
```

## SIMPLE FORM: CONTACT US

```
form li {
  margin: 0 0 .75em;
}
label {
  display: block;
}
input, textarea {
  width: 250px;
}
```

### Send us a message

Name

Email

Message

Go

```
<form id="contact-form" action="#" method="post">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <ol>
      <li><label for="contact-name">Name</label>
        <input type="text" id="contact-name" name="name" /></li>
      <li><label for="contact-email">Email</label>
        <input type="text" id="contact-email" name="email" /></li>
      <li><label for="contact-message">Message</label>
        <textarea id="contact-message" name="message" rows="4"
          cols="30"></textarea></li>
    </ol>
    <button type="submit">Go</button>
  </fieldset>
</form>
```

## SIMPLE FORM: CONTACT US

```
form li {
  clear: both;
  margin: 0 0 .75em;
  padding: 0;
}
label {
  display: block;
  float: left;
  line-height: 1.6;
  margin-right: 10px;
  text-align: right;
  width: 120px;
}
```

Send us a message

Name

Email

Message

Go

```
<form id="contact-form" action="#" method="post">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <ol>
      <li><label for="contact-name">Name</label>
        <input type="text" id="contact-name" name="name" /></li>
      <li><label for="contact-email">Email</label>
        <input type="text" id="contact-email" name="email" /></li>
      <li><label for="contact-message">Message</label>
        <textarea id="contact-message" name="message" rows="4"
          cols="30"></textarea></li>
    </ol>
    <button type="submit">Go</button>
  </fieldset>
</form>
```



## SIMPLE FORM: CONTACT US

```

legend {
  font-size: 2em;
  line-height: 1.8;
  padding-bottom: .5em;
}
button {
  margin-left: 130px;
  cursor: pointer;
}

```

Send us a message

Name

Email

Message

Go

```

<form id="contact-form" action="#" method="post">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <ol>
      <li><label for="contact-name">Name</label>
        <input type="text" id="contact-name" name="name" /></li>
      <li><label for="contact-email">Email</label>
        <input type="text" id="contact-email" name="email" /></li>
      <li><label for="contact-message">Message</label>
        <textarea id="contact-message" name="message" rows="4"
          cols="30"></textarea></li>
    </ol>
    <button type="submit">Go</button>
  </fieldset>
</form>

```

## SIMPLE FORM: CONTACT US

```
label:after {
  content: ':';
}
input, textarea {
  background: #ddd;
  width: 250px;
}
input:focus,
textarea:focus {
  background: #fff;
}
/* Some styles to get
the baselines to
match & to unify the
type used */
```

### Send us a message

Name:

Email:

Message:

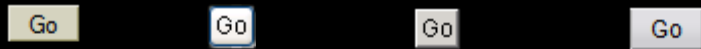
**GO**

```
<form id="contact-form" action="#" method="post">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <ol>
      <li><label for="contact-name">Name</label>
        <input type="text" id="contact-name" name="name" /></li>
      <li><label for="contact-email">Email</label>
        <input type="text" id="contact-email" name="email" /></li>
      <li><label for="contact-message">Message</label>
        <textarea id="contact-message" name="message" rows="4"
          cols="30"></textarea></li>
    </ol>
    <button type="submit">Go</button>
  </fieldset>
</form>
```

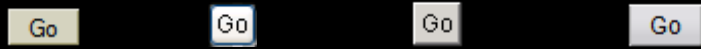
# SIDEBAR: BUTTONS

## WINDOWS XP

## OS X



INPUT



BUTTON



Mozilla	IE 6/7 (XP)	IE 6/7 (classic)	Opera		Safari	Camino	Firefox	IE 5	Opera
---------	----------------	---------------------	-------	--	--------	--------	---------	------	-------

## SIMPLE FORM: CONTACT US

```
body {
  font: 62.5% "Lucida Sans
    Unicode", "Lucida Grande",
    sans-serif;
}
ol, ul, p {
  font-size: 1.2em;
  line-height: 1.5;
}
form, fieldset, legend {
  border: 0;
  margin: 0;
  padding: 0;
}
legend {
  font-size: 2em;
  line-height: 1.8;
  padding-bottom: .5em;
}
form ol, form ul {
  list-style: none;
  margin: 0;
  padding: 0;
}
form li {
  clear: both;
  margin: 0 0 .75em;
  padding: 0;
}
label {
  display: block;
  float: left;
  line-height: 1.6;
  margin-right: 10px;
  text-align: right;
  width: 120px;
}
label:after {
  content: ':';
}
input, textarea {
  background: #ddd;
  font: 1em Arial, Helvetica,
    sans-serif;
  padding: 1px 3px;
  width: 250px;
}
textarea {
  line-height: 1.3em;
  padding: 0 3px;
}
input:focus, textarea:focus {
  background: #fff;
}
button {
  background: #ffd100;
  border: 2px outset #333;
  color: #333;
  cursor: pointer;
  font-size: .9em;
  font-weight: bold;
  letter-spacing: .3em;
  margin-left: 130px;
  padding: .2em .5em;
  text-transform: uppercase;
}
```

# SIMPLE FORM: CONTACT US

## Send us a message

Name:

Email:

Subject:

Message:

- I noticed a website error
- I have a question
- Other

## SIMPLE FORM: CONTACT US

Name:

Email:

Subject:

Message:

## SELECTION Lists

allows selection of one or more `OPTIONS`

On `OPTION` elements, the `VALUE` attribute is optional (contents are submitted by default)

```
<form id="contact-form" action="#" method="post">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <ol>
      ...
      <li><label
        for="contact-subject">Subject</label>
        <select id="contact-subject"
          name="subject">
          <option value="Error">I noticed a
            website error</option>
          <option value="Question">I have a
            question</option>
          <option>Other</option>
        </select></li>
      ...
    </ol>
    <button type="submit">Go</button>
  </fieldset>
</form>
```

## SIDEBAR: OPTGROUPS

What is your favorite kind of fruit?

Golden Delicious

**Apples**

- Golden Delicious
- Granny Smith
- Macintosh
- Red Delicious

**Berries**

- Blackberries
- Blueberries
- Raspberries
- Strawberries

```
<select id="favorite-fruit" name="favorite-fruit">
  <optgroup label="Apples">
    <option value="Golden Delicious Apples">Golden Delicious</option>
    <option value="Granny Smith Apples">Granny Smith</option>
    <option value="Macintosh Apples">Macintosh</option>
    <option value="Red Delicious Apples">Red Delicious</option>
  </optgroup>
  <optgroup label="Berries">
    <option>Blackberries</option>
    <option>Blueberries</option>
    <option>Raspberries</option>
    <option>Strawberries</option>
  </optgroup>
</select>
```

## SIMPLE FORM: CONTACT US

Send us a message

Name:

Email:

Subject:

Message:

GO

```
<form id="contact-form" action="#" method="post">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <ol>
      ...
      <li><label for="contact-subject">Subject</label>
        <select id="contact-subject" name="subject">
          <option value="Error">I noticed a website error</option>
          <option value="Question">I have a question</option>
          <option>Other</option>
        </select></li>
      ...
    </ol>
    <button type="submit">Go</button>
  </fieldset>
</form>
```



## SIMPLE FORM: CONTACT US

```
select {
  background: #ddd;
  width: 260px;
  /* width is *usually*
  the input width +
  input padding +
  4px */
}
input:focus,
textarea:focus,
select:focus {
  background: #fff;
}
```

### Send us a message

Name:

Email:






Subject:

Message:

```
<form id="contact-form" action="#" method="post">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <ol>
      ...
      <li><label for="contact-subject">Subject</label>
        <select id="contact-subject" name="subject">
          <option value="Error">I noticed a website error</option>
          <option value="Question">I have a question</option>
          <option>Other</option>
        </select></li>
      ...
    </ol>
    <button type="submit">Go</button>
  </fieldset>
</form>
```

# SIDEBAR: SELECTS

## WINDOWS XP

				
Mozilla	IE 6/7 (XP)	IE 7 (classic)	IE 6 (classic)	Opera

## OS X

				
Safari	Camino	Firefox	IE 5	Opera

# SIMPLE FORM: CONTACT US

Subject: I noticed a website error

Message:

I would prefer to be contacted by

email

phone

**GO**

## SIMPLE FORM: CONTACT US

### Nested FIELDSETS

a great way to organize radio or checkbox groups

The LEGEND is the question or statement

Lists organize the possible responses (OL or UL)

implicit LABELS provide an easy way to style in IE6

```

...
<li>
  <fieldset class="radio">
    <legend>I would prefer to be
      contacted by</legend>
    <ul>
      <li><label><input type="radio"
        name="method" value="email" />
        email</label></li>
      <li><label><input type="radio"
        name="method" value="phone" />
        phone</label></li>
    </ul>
  </fieldset>
</li>
...

```

## SIMPLE FORM: CONTACT US

Email:

Phone:

Subject:

Message:

I would prefer to be contacted by

email:

phone:

GO

```
<form id="contact-form" action="#" method="post">
  ...
  <li>
    <fieldset class="radio">
      <legend>I would prefer to be contacted by</legend>
      <ul>
        <li><label><input type="radio" name="method" value="email" />
          email</label></li>
        <li><label><input type="radio" name="method" value="phone" />
          phone</label></li>
      </ul>
    </fieldset>
  </li>
  ...
</form>
```

## SIMPLE FORM: CONTACT US

```
.radio legend {
  font-size: 1em;
  line-height: 1.5;
  padding: 0 0 0 6px;
  margin: 0;
}

.radio label {
  display: inline;
  width: auto;
  margin: 0;
}
```

Send us a message

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Subject:

Message:

I would prefer to be contacted by

email:

phone:

```
<form id="contact-form" action="#" method="post">
  ...
  <li>
    <fieldset class="radio">
      <legend>I would prefer to be contacted by</legend>
      <ul>
        <li><label><input type="radio" name="method" value="email" />
          email</label></li>
        <li><label><input type="radio" name="method" value="phone" />
          phone</label></li>
      </ul>
    </fieldset>
  </li>
  ...
</form>
```

## SIMPLE FORM: CONTACT US

```
.radio {
  margin-left: 125px;
}
.radio ul {
  font-size: 1em;
  margin: .3em 0 0;
}
.radio label:after {
  content: '';
}
label input {
  background:
  transparent;
  width: auto;
}
```

### Send us a message

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Subject:

Message:

I would prefer to be contacted by

- email
- phone

GO

```
<form id="contact-form" action="#" method="post">
  ...
  <li>
    <fieldset class="radio">
      <legend>I would prefer to be contacted by</legend>
      <ul>
        <li><label><input type="radio" name="method" value="email" />
          email</label></li>
        <li><label><input type="radio" name="method" value="phone" />
          phone</label></li>
      </ul>
    </fieldset>
  </li>
  ...
</form>
```

## SIMPLE FORM: CONTACT US

```
.radio li {
  float: left;
  margin: 0;
  width: 48%;
  clear: none;
}
label input {
  width: auto;
  position: relative;
  top: 2px;
}
```

### Send us a message

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Subject:

Message:

I would prefer to be contacted by

email  phone

```
<form id="contact-form" action="#" method="post">
  ...
  <li>
    <fieldset class="radio">
      <legend>I would prefer to be contacted by</legend>
      <ul>
        <li><label><input type="radio" name="method" value="email" />
          email</label></li>
        <li><label><input type="radio" name="method" value="phone" />
          phone</label></li>
      </ul>
    </fieldset>
  </li>
  ...
</form>
```



## SIMPLE FORM: CONTACT US

```
.radio legend {
  font-size: 1em;
  line-height: 1.5;
  padding: 0 0 0 6px;
  margin: 0;
max-width: 270px;
width: 270px;
}
```

Send us a message

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Subject:

Message:

**This is an exceedingly long LEGEND to demonstrate the odd behi**

email  phone

```
...
<fieldset class="radio">
  <legend>This is an exceedingly long
  <code>LEGEND</code> to demonstrate the odd
  behavior of <code>LEGEND</code>s</legend>
  <ul>
    <li><label><input type="radio" name="method" value="email" />
    email</label></li>
    <li><label><input type="radio" name="method" value="phone" />
    phone</label></li>
  </ul>
</fieldset>
...
```

## SIMPLE FORM: CONTACT US

```
.radio legend span {
  display: block;
  width: 270px;
}
```

Send us a message

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Subject:

Message:

This is an exceedingly long LEGEND to demonstrate the odd behavior of LEGENDS

email  phone

```
...
<fieldset class="radio">
  <legend><span>This is an exceedingly long
    <code>LEGEND</code> to demonstrate the odd behavior of
    <code>LEGEND</code></span></legend>
  <ul>
    <li><label><input type="radio" name="method" value="email" />
      email</label></li>
    <li><label><input type="radio" name="method" value="phone" />
      phone</label></li>
  </ul>
</fieldset>
...
```

# SIMPLE FORM: CONTACT US

Subject: I noticed a website error 

Message: 

I would prefer to be contacted by

email  phone

Please add me to your mailing list

**GO**

## SIMPLE FORM: CONTACT US

## Confirmations

a little CLASSification goes a long way

```
<form id="contact-form" action="#" method="post">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <ol>
      ...
      <li class="confirm">
        <input type="hidden" name="mailing-list"
          value="0" />
        <label><input type="checkbox"
          name="mailing-list" value="1" />
          Please add me to your mailing
          list</label></li>
      ...
    </ol>
    <button type="submit">Go</button>
  </fieldset>
</form>
```

## SIMPLE FORM: CONTACT US

Send us a message

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Subject:

Message:

I would prefer to be contacted by

email  phone

Please add me to your mailing list:

```
<form id="contact-form" action="#" method="post">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <ol>
      ...
      <li class="confirm">
        <input type="hidden" name="mailing-list" value="0" />
        <label><input type="checkbox" name="mailing-list" value="1" />
          Please add me to your mailing list</label></li>
      ...
    </ol>
    <button type="submit">Go</button>
  </fieldset>
</form>
```

## SIMPLE FORM: CONTACT US

```
.confirm label {
  display: block;
  float: none;
  margin-left: 125px;
  text-align: left;
  width: 270px;
}
```

Send us a message

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Subject:

Message:

I would prefer to be contacted by

email  phone

Please add me to your mailing list

```
<form id="contact-form" action="#" method="post">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <ol>
      ...
      <li class="confirm">
        <input type="hidden" name="mailing-list" value="0" />
        <label><input type="checkbox" name="mailing-list" value="1" />
          Please add me to your mailing list</label></li>
      ...
    </ol>
    <button type="submit">Go</button>
  </fieldset>
</form>
```

## SIMPLE FORM: CONTACT US

```
.confirm {
  margin-bottom: 1.4em;
}
.radio label:after,
.confirm label:after {
  content: ' ';
}
```

Send us a message

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Subject:

Message:

I would prefer to be contacted by

email  phone

Please add me to your mailing list

```
<form id="contact-form" action="#" method="post">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <ol>
      ...
      <li class="confirm">
        <input type="hidden" name="mailing-list" value="0" />
        <label><input type="checkbox" name="mailing-list" value="1" />
          Please add me to your mailing list</label></li>
      ...
    </ol>
    <button type="submit">Go</button>
  </fieldset>
</form>
```

**MORE**  
**FORMS OF**  
**FORMS**



# SIMPLE FORM: SEARCH BOX

Search this site for

## SIMPLE FORM: SEARCH BOX



Search this site for

### POST vs. GET

Search forms are traditionally GET requests to allow the action page (i.e. the results) to be bookmarkable.

```
<form id="search-form"  
      action="/action-page.php"  
      method="get">
```

```
<!-- the rest of our form will go here -->
```

```
</form>
```

## SIMPLE FORM: SEARCH BOX

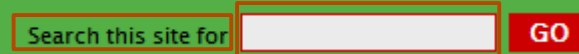


Search this site for

You need something  
Sometimes a `FIELDSET` is unnecessary, but in XHTML, you need something to wrap the contents of a form

```
<form id="search-form" action="/action-page.php" method="get">  
  <p>  
    <!-- the rest of our form will go here -->  
  <p>  
</form>
```

## SIMPLE FORM: SEARCH BOX



Search this site for

Easy-peasy

```
<form id="search-form" action="/action-page.php" method="get">
  <p>
    <label for="search-query">Search this
      site for</label>
    <input type="text" id="search-query"
      name="query" />
  <p>
</form>
```

## SIMPLE FORM: SEARCH BOX

Search this site for

GO

It's a **BUTTON**  
big shock, I know

```
<form id="search-form" action="/action-page.php" method="get">
  <p>
    <label for="search-query">Search this site for</label>
    <input type="text" id="search-query" name="query" />
    <button type="submit">Go</button>
  <p>
</form>
```

## SIMPLE FORM: SEARCH BOX

```
body {  
  background: #54af44;  
  font: 62.5% "Lucida  
  Sans Unicode", "Lucida  
  Grande", sans-serif;  
}  
ol, ul, p {  
  font-size: 1.2em;  
  line-height: 1.5;  
}
```

Search this site for

```
<form id="search-form" action="/action-page.php" method="get">  
  <p>  
    <label for="search-query">Search this site for</label>  
    <input type="text" id="search-query" name="query" />  
    <button type="submit">Go</button>  
  <p>  
</form>
```

## SIMPLE FORM: SEARCH BOX

```
label {  
  line-height: 2em;  
}  
input {  
  border: 1px solid #c00;  
  background: #ebebeb;  
  margin: 0 .5em;  
  padding: 2px 4px;  
}  
input:focus {  
  background: #fff;  
}
```

Search this site for

```
<form id="search-form" action="/action-page.php" method="get">  
  <p>  
    <label for="search-query">Search this site for</label>  
    <input type="text" id="search-query" name="query" />  
    <button type="submit">Go</button>  
  </p>  
</form>
```

## SIMPLE FORM: SEARCH BOX

```
button {  
  background: #c00;  
  border: 0;  
  color: #fff;  
  cursor: pointer;  
  font-size: .9em;  
  font-weight: bold;  
  letter-spacing: .1em;  
  padding: 2px 8px;  
  text-transform:  
    uppercase;  
}
```

Search this site for

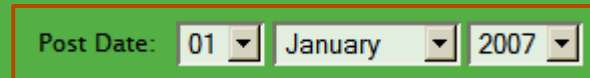
```
<form id="search-form" action="/action-page.php" method="get">  
  <p>  
    <label for="search-query">Search this site for</label>  
    <input type="text" id="search-query" name="query" />  
    <button type="submit">Go</button>  
  <p>  
</form>
```



# SIMPLE FORM: DATE SELECT

Post Date:

## SIMPLE FORM: DATE SELECT

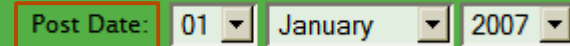


Post Date: 01 January 2007

### Getting organized

```
<fieldset class="date">  
  <!-- the rest will go here -->  
</fieldset>
```

## SIMPLE FORM: DATE SELECT



Post Date: 01 January 2007

Not really a LABEL

```
<fieldset class="date">  
  <legend>Post Date</legend>  
  
  <!-- the rest will go here -->  
  
</fieldset>
```

## SIMPLE FORM: DATE SELECT

Post Date:

Not just a `SELECT`  
we need some LABELING

```
<fieldset class="date">
  <legend>Post Date</legend>
  <ol>
    <li>
      <label for="date-day">Date</label>
      <select id="date-day" name="day">
        <option>01</option>
        ...
        <option>31</option>
      </select>
    </li>
  </ol>
</fieldset>
```

## SIMPLE FORM: DATE SELECT

Post Date:

And so on

```
<fieldset class="date">
  <legend>Post Date</legend>
  <ol>
    <li>
      <label for="date-day">Date</label>
      ...
    </li>
    <li>
      <label for="date-month">Month</label>
      <select id="date-month" name="month">
        <option value="01">January</option>
        ...
        <option value="12">December</option>
      </select>
    </li>
  </ol>
</fieldset>
```

## SIMPLE FORM: DATE SELECT

Post Date:

And so forth

```
<fieldset class="date">
  <legend>Post Date</legend>
  <ol>
    <li>
      <label for="date-day">Date</label>
      ...
    </li>
    <li>
      <label for="date-month">Month</label>
      ...
    </li>
    <li>
      <label for="date-year">Year</label>
      <select id="date-year" name="year">
        <option>2007</option>
        <option>2008</option>
      </select>
    </li>
  </ol>
</fieldset>
```

## SIMPLE FORM: DATE SELECT

```
body {
  background: #54af44;
  font: 62.5% "Lucida
  Sans Unicode", "Lucida
  Grande", sans-serif;
}
ol, ul, p, legend {
  font-size: 1.2em;
  line-height: 1.5;
}
legend {
  color: #000;
}
```

Post Date

1. Date
2. Month
3. Year

```
<fieldset class="date">
  <legend>Post Date</legend>
  <ol>
    <li><label for="date-day">Date</label>
      ...
    </li>
    <li><label for="date-month">Month</label>
      ...
    </li>
    <li><label for="date-year">Year</label>
      ...
    </li>
  </ol>
</fieldset>
```

## SIMPLE FORM: DATE SELECT

```
.date {  
  border: 0;  
  padding: 0;  
}  
.date ol {  
  list-style: none;  
  margin: 0 0 0 130px;  
  padding: 0;  
}
```

Post Date

Date

Month

Year

```
<fieldset class="date">  
  <legend>Post Date</legend>  
  <ol>  
    <li><label for="date-day">Date</label>  
    ...  
  </li>  
  <li><label for="date-month">Month</label>  
  ...  
  </li>  
  <li><label for="date-year">Year</label>  
  ...  
  </li>  
  </ol>  
</fieldset>
```



## SIMPLE FORM: DATE SELECT

```
.date li {  
  float: left;  
}
```

Post Date

Date  Month  Year

```
<fieldset class="date">  
  <legend>Post Date</legend>  
  <ol>  
    <li><label for="date-day">Date</label>  
    ...  
  </li>  
  <li><label for="date-month">Month</label>  
  ...  
  </li>  
  <li><label for="date-year">Year</label>  
  ...  
  </li>  
  </ol>  
</fieldset>
```

## SIMPLE FORM: DATE SELECT

```
.date select {  
  background: #e2efe0;  
  margin: 0 .25em 0 0;  
}  
.date select:focus {  
  background: #fff;  
}
```

Post Date

Date 01 ▾ Month January ▾ Year 2007 ▾

```
<fieldset class="date">  
  <legend>Post Date</legend>  
  <ol>  
    <li><label for="date-day">Date</label>  
    ...  
  </li>  
  <li><label for="date-month">Month</label>  
  ...  
  </li>  
  <li><label for="date-year">Year</label>  
  ...  
  </li>  
  </ol>  
</fieldset>
```

## SIMPLE FORM: DATE SELECT

```
.date label {  
  position: absolute;  
  left: -999em;  
}
```

Post Date

```
<fieldset class="date">  
  <legend>Post Date</legend>  
  <ol>  
    <li><label for="date-day">Date</label>  
    ...  
  </li>  
  <li><label for="date-month">Month</label>  
  ...  
  </li>  
  <li><label for="date-year">Year</label>  
  ...  
  </li>  
  </ol>  
</fieldset>
```

## SIMPLE FORM: DATE SELECT

```
.date {  
  border: 0;  
  padding: 0;  
  position: relative;  
}  
.date legend span {  
  display: block;  
  line-height: 1.6;  
  text-align: right;  
  width: 120px;  
  position: absolute;  
  top: 0;  
  left: 0;  
}
```

Post Date

```
<fieldset class="date">  
  <legend><span>Post Date</span></legend>  
  <ol>  
    <li><label for="date-day">Date</label>  
    ...  
  </li>  
  <li><label for="date-month">Month</label>  
  ...  
  </li>  
  <li><label for="date-year">Year</label>  
  ...  
  </li>  
  </ol>  
</fieldset>
```

## SIMPLE FORM: DATE SELECT

```
.date legend
span:after {
  content: ":";
}
```

Post Date: 01 January 2007

```
<fieldset class="date">
  <legend><span>Post Date</span></legend>
  <ol>
    <li><label for="date-day">Date</label>
      ...
    </li>
    <li><label for="date-month">Month</label>
      ...
    </li>
    <li><label for="date-year">Year</label>
      ...
    </li>
  </ol>
</fieldset>
```

## COMPLEX FORM: RELATED FIELDS

Confine results to

within the last year

the month of

a monthly range

from the start of

until the end of

## COMPLEX FORM: RELATED FIELDS

Organization and coordination  
as with other elements, form components can have multiple CLASSifications

Confine results to

- within the last year
- the month of
- a monthly range
  - from the start of
  - until the end of

```
<fieldset class="radio related">
  <legend>
    <span>Confine results to</span>
  </legend>
  <ul>
    <li>
      <!-- year -->
    </li>
    <li>
      <!-- month -->
    </li>
    <li>
      <!-- range -->
    </li>
  </ul>
</fieldset>
```

## COMPLEX FORM: RELATED FIELDS

Basic implicit LABEL  
nothing shocking here

Confine results to

- within the last year
- the month of
- a monthly range
  - from the start of
  - until the end of

```
<fieldset class="radio related">
  <legend><span>Confine results to</span></legend>
  <ul>
    <li>
      <label>
        <input type="radio" name="confines"
          value="year" /> within the last year
      </label>
    </li>
    ...
  </ul>
</fieldset>
```



## COMPLEX FORM: RELATED FIELDS

LABELS can contain more than one form control  
in our case, we have a radio INPUT as well as a SELECTION box

Confine results to

- within the last year
- the month of
- a monthly range
  - from the start of
  - until the end of

```
<fieldset class="radio related">
  <legend><span>Confine results to</span></legend>
  <ul>
    <li>
      <label><input type="radio" name="confines" value="year" />
        within the last year</label>
    </li>
    <li>
      <label>
        <input type="radio" name="confines"
          value="month" />
        the month of
        <select name="month">
          <option value="01">January</option>
          ...
          <option value="12">December</option>
        </select>
      </label>
    </li>
    ...
  </ul>
</fieldset>
```

## COMPLEX FORM: RELATED FIELDS

How do I code that?!?

think about it... what are the relationships of the fields?

Confine results to

- within the last year
- the month of
- a monthly range
  - from the start of
  - until the end of

```
<fieldset class="radio related">
  <legend><span>Confine results to</span></legend>
  <ul>
    ...
    <li>
      <dl>
        <dt>
          <!-- radio will go here -->
        </dt>
        <dd>
          <!-- related fields here -->
        </dd>
      </dl>
    </li>
  </ul>
</fieldset>
```

## COMPLEX FORM: RELATED FIELDS

We know the first bit

Confine results to

- within the last year
- the month of
- a monthly range

from the start of

until the end of

```
<fieldset class="radio related">
  <legend><span>Confine results to</span></legend>
  <ul>
    ...
    <li>
      <dl>
        <dt>
          <label>
            <input type="radio" name="confines"
              value="range" />
            a monthly range
          </label>
        </dt>
        <dd>
          <!-- related fields here -->
        </dd>
      </dl>
    </li>
  </ul>
</fieldset>
```

# COMPLEX FORM: RELATED FIELDS

Confine results to

- within the last year
- the month of
- a monthly range
 

from the start of

until the end of

We need to organize this now

```

<fieldset class="radio related">
  <legend><span>Confine results to</span></legend>
  <ul>
    ...
    <li>
      <dl>
        <dt>
          <label><input type="radio" name="confines"...
        </dt>
        <dd>
          <ol>
            <li>
              <!-- start -->
            </li>
            <li>
              <!-- end -->
            </li>
          </ol>
        </dd>
      </dl>
    </li>
  </ul>
</fieldset>
    
```

## COMPLEX FORM: RELATED FIELDS

Confine results to

- within the last year
- the month of
- a monthly range

from the start of

until the end of

## Simple explicit LABEL

```

...
<dd>
  <ol>
    <li>
      <label for="range-start">
        from the start of</label>
      <select id="range-start"
        name="range-start">
        <option value="2006-01">January
          2006</option>
          ...
        <option value="2006-12">December
          2006</option>
      </select>
    </li>
    <li>
      <!-- end -->
    </li>
  </ol>
</dd>
...

```

## COMPLEX FORM: RELATED FIELDS

Confine results to

- within the last year
- the month of
- a monthly range
  - from the start of
  - until the end of

And again

```

...
<dd>
  <ol>
    <li>
      <label for="range-start">from the start of</label>
      ...
    </li>
    <li>
      <label for="range-end">
        until the end of</label>
      <select id="range-end"
        name="range-end">
        <option value="2006-01">January
          2006</option>
          ...
        <option value="2006-12">December
          2006</option>
      </select>
    </li>
  </ol>
</dd>
...

```

## COMPLEX FORM: RELATED FIELDS

It's a lot of code...

```
<fieldset class="radio related">
  <legend><span>Confine results to</span></legend>
  <ul>
    <li>
      <label>
        <input type="radio" name="confines" value="year" />
        within the last year</label>
      </li>
    <li>
      <label>
        <input type="radio" name="confines" value="month" />
        the month of
        <select name="month">
          <option value="01">January</option>
          ...
        </select>
      </label>
    </li>
    <li>
      <dl>
        <dt>
          <label>
            <input type="radio" name="confines" value="range" />
            a monthly range
          </label>
        </dt>
        <dd>
          <ol>
            <li>
              <label for="range-start">from the start of</label>
              <select id="range-start" name="range-start">
                <option value="2006-01">January 2006</option>
                ...
              </select>
            </li>
            <li>
              <label for="range-end">until the end of</label>
              <select id="range-end" name="range-end">
                <option value="2006-01">January 2006</option>
                ...
              </select>
            </li>
          </ol>
        </dd>
      </dl>
    </li>
  </ul>
</fieldset>
```

## COMPLEX FORM: RELATED FIELDS

...but the benefits are  
worth it

Confine results to  
List of three items

bullet

Radio button (not checked) within the last year

bullet

Radio button (not checked) the month of

Combo box January

bullet

Definition list of one item

Radio button (not checked) a monthly range  
equals

List of two items

one: from the start of

Combo box January 2006

two: until the end of

Combo box January 2006

List end

List end

List end

*transcribed by Fangs*



## COMPLEX FORM: RELATED FIELDS

```
/* We'll save some space
and inherit styles
from .radio */
```

```
form ol, form ul,
form dl {
  list-style: none;
  margin: 0;
  padding: 0;
}
li ul, li ol {
  font-size: 1em;
}
```

Confine results to

within the last year

the month of

a monthly range

from  until

the  the end

start of of

```
<fieldset class="radio related">
  <legend><span>Confine results to</span></legend>
  <ul>
    <li>
      <!-- year -->
    </li>
    <li>
      <!-- month -->
    </li>
    <li>
      <!-- range -->
    </li>
  </ul>
</fieldset>
```

## COMPLEX FORM: RELATED FIELDS

```
.related li {
  clear: both;
  float: none;
  margin: 0 0 .5em;
  width: auto;
}
```

```
/* For IE to recover from
   a strange margin */
.related li {
  zoom: 1;
}
```

Confine results to

- within the last year
- the month of
- a monthly range
  - from the start of
  - until the end of

```
<fieldset class="radio related">
  <legend><span>Confine results to</span></legend>
  <ul>
    <li>
      <!-- year -->
    </li>
    <li>
      <!-- month -->
    </li>
    <li>
      <!-- range -->
    </li>
  </ul>
</fieldset>
```

## COMPLEX FORM: RELATED FIELDS

```
.related select {
  margin-left: .25em;
}
.related dd {
  margin: .5em 0 0;
  padding: 0 0 0 3em;
}
.related dd label {
  float: left;
  line-height: 1.9;
  width: 100px;
}
```

Confine results to

- within the last year
- the month of
- a monthly range
  - from the start of
  - until the end of

```
<fieldset class="radio related">
  <legend><span>Confine results to</span></legend>
  <ul>
    <li>
      <!-- year -->
    </li>
    <li>
      <!-- month -->
    </li>
    <li>
      <!-- range -->
    </li>
  </ul>
</fieldset>
```

## COMPLEX FORM: RELATED FIELDS

```
.related legend span {
  display: block;
  line-height: 1.8;
  text-align: right;
  width: 120px;
  position: absolute;
  top: 0;
  left: -130px;
}
```

Confine results to

- within the last year
- the month of
- a monthly range
  - from the start of
  - until the end of

```
<fieldset class="radio related">
  <legend><span>Confine results to</span></legend>
  <ul>
    <li>
      <!-- year -->
    </li>
    <li>
      <!-- month -->
    </li>
    <li>
      <!-- range -->
    </li>
  </ul>
</fieldset>
```

**MAKING**  
**THE MOST OF**  
**MESSAGES**

# MESSAGING: REQUIRED

## Send us a message

Required fields are marked \*.

Name\*

Email required

Phone:

Subject:

Message:

## MESSAGING: REQUIRED

### What is the \* anyway?

Well, it stands for something else and in HTML, the closest to that we have to convey that is the ABBR element.

Send us a message

Required fields are marked \*.

Name

Email  required

Phone:

Subject:

Message:

```
<form id="contact-form" action="test.php" method="get">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <p>Required fields are marked
      <abbr title="required">*</abbr>.</p>
    <ol>
      <li>
        <label for="contact-name">
          Name<abbr title="required">*</abbr>
        </label>
        <input type="text" id="contact-name" name="name" />
      </li>
      ...
    </ol>
  </fieldset>
</form>
```

# MESSAGING: REQUIRED

If you want to go all-out, you can  
but that seems like overkill

Send us a message

Required fields are marked \*.

Name  \*

Email  required

Phone:

Subject:

Message:

```
<form id="contact-form" action="test.php" method="get">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <p>Required fields are marked
      <em><abbr title="required">*</abbr></em>.
    </p>
    <ol>
      <li class="required">
        <label for="contact-name">
          Name<em><abbr title="required">*</abbr></em>
        </label>
        <input type="text" id="contact-name" name="name" />
      </li>
      ...
    </ol>
  </fieldset>
</form>
```



# MESSAGING: REQUIRED

## Send us a message

Required fields are marked \*

Name\*

Email:

Phone:

Subject: I noticed a website error

Message:

```
<form id="contact-form" action="test.php" method="get">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <p>Required fields are marked
      <abbr title="required">*</abbr>.</p>
    <ol>
      <li>
        <label for="contact-name">
          Name<abbr title="required">*</abbr>
        </label>
        <input type="text" id="contact-name" name="name" />
      </li>
      ...
    </ol>
  </fieldset>
</form>
```

## MESSAGING: REQUIRED

```
abbr {
  cursor: help;
  font-style: normal;
  border: 0;
}
```

### Send us a message

Required fields are marked \*.

Name\*:

Email:

Phone:

Subject:

Message:

```
<form id="contact-form" action="test.php" method="get">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <p>Required fields are marked
      <abbr title="required">*</abbr>.</p>
    <ol>
      <li>
        <label for="contact-name">
          Name<abbr title="required">*</abbr>
        </label>
        <input type="text" id="contact-name" name="name" />
      </li>
      ...
    </ol>
  </fieldset>
</form>
```

# MESSAGING: FORMATTING

## Send us a message

Required fields are marked \*.

Name\*:

Email\*:

Phone:  format: 123-456-7890

Subject\*:  ▼

Message\*:

## MESSAGING: FORMATTING

How should we emphasize important formatting info?

Send us a message

Required fields are marked \*.

Name\*:

Email\*:

Phone:  format: 123-456-7890

Subject\*:

Message\*:

```

...
<li>
  <label for="contact-email">
    Email<abbr title="required">*</abbr>
  </label>
  <input type="text" id="contact-email" name="email" />
</li>
<li>
  <label for="contact-phone">
    Phone<em
      class="msg"> format: 123-456-7890</em>
  </label>
  <input type="text" id="contact-phone" name="phone" />
</li>
<li>
  <label for="contact-subject">
    Subject<abbr title="required">*</abbr>
  </label>
  <select id="contact-subject" name="subject">
    <option value="Error">I noticed a website error</option>
    ...
  </select>
</li>

```

# MESSAGING: FORMATTING

## Send us a message

Required fields are marked \*.

Name\*:

Email\*:

Phone *format:*  
*123-456-7890:*

Subject\*: I noticed a website error

Message\*:

```
...
<li>
  <label for="contact-phone">Phone<em
    class="msg"> format: 123-456-7890</em></label>
  <input type="text" id="contact-phone" name="phone" />
</li>
...
```

# MESSAGING: FORMATTING

```
label em.msg {  
  font-size: .8em;  
  font-style: normal;  
  line-height: 2.5;  
}
```

## Send us a message

Required fields are marked \*.

Name\*:

Email\*:

Phone format:

123-456-7890:

Subject\*:

Message\*:

```
...  
<li>  
  <label for="contact-phone">Phone<em  
    class="msg"> format: 123-456-7890</em></label>  
  <input type="text" id="contact-phone" name="phone" />  
</li>  
...
```

# MESSAGING: FORMATTING

```
label{
  ...
  position: relative;
}
label em.msg {
  color: #aaa;
  font-size: .8em;
  font-style: normal;
  line-height: 2.5;
  position: absolute;
  right: -266px;
  top: 0;
}
```

## Send us a message

Required fields are marked \*.

Name\*:

Email\*:

Phone:

Subject\*:

Message\*:

```
...
<li>
  <label for="contact-phone">Phone<em
    class="msg"> format: 123-456-7890</em></label>
  <input type="text" id="contact-phone" name="phone" />
</li>
...
```

MESSAGING:  
FORMATTING

## Send us a message

Required fields are marked \*.

Name\*: Aaron Gustafson

Email\*: aaron@easy-designs.net

Phone: 203 format: 123-456-7890

Subject\*: I noticed a website error

Message\*

```
...  
<li>  
  <label for="contact-phone">Phone<em  
    class="msg"> format: 123-456-7890</em></label>  
  <input type="text" id="contact-phone" name="phone" />  
</li>  
...
```



# MESSAGING: ERRORS

## Send us a message

We encountered **1 error** while trying to process this form:

- You forgot to include [your email address](#)

Required fields are marked \*.

Name\*:

Email\*:

< You forgot to fill in your email

Phone:

format: 123-456-7890

Subject\*:



## MESSAGING: ERRORS

marked \*

Aaron Gustafson

**< You forgot to fill in your email**

format: 123-456-7890

I noticed a website error

Your homepage doesn't validate! And you call yourself a standardista

How should we strongly emphasize even more important error advisories?

How should we highlight the field?

```
...  
<li class="error">  
  <label for="contact-email">  
    Email<abbr title="required">*</abbr>  
    <strong class="err"> You forgot to fill  
      in your email</strong>  
  </label>  
  <input type="text" id="contact-email" name="email" />  
</li>  
...
```

# MESSAGING: ERRORS

## Send us a message

Required fields are marked \*.

Name\*:

Email\* **You forgot to fill in your**

email:

Phone:

Subject\*:

Message\*:

```
...
<li class="error">
  <label for="contact-email">
    Email<abbr title="required">*</abbr><strong class="err"> You forgot
    to fill in your email</strong>
  </label>
  <input type="text" id="contact-email" name="email" />
</li>
...
```

# MESSAGING: ERRORS

```
strong.err {
  color: #ffdfdf;
  display: block;
  padding-left: 5px;
  text-align: left;
}
```

## Send us a message

Required fields are marked \*.

Name\*:

Email\*

**You forgot to fill  
in your email**

Phone:

Subject\*:

Message\*:

```
...
<li class="error">
  <label for="contact-email">
    Email<abbr title="required">*</abbr><strong class="err"> You forgot
    to fill in your email</strong>
  </label>
  <input type="text" id="contact-email" name="email" />
</li>
...
```

# MESSAGING: ERRORS

```
strong.err {
  color: #ffdfdf;
  display: block;
  line-height: 1.8;
  padding-left: 5px;
  text-align: left;
  white-space: nowrap;
  position: absolute;
  top: 0;
  left: 390px;
}
strong.err:before {
  content: "<"
}
```

## message

marked \*.

Aaron Gustafson

< You forgot to fill in your email

I noticed a website error

Your homepage doesn't validate! And you call yourself a standardista.

```
...
<li class="error">
  <label for="contact-email">
    Email<abbr title="required">*</abbr><strong class="err"> You forgot
    to fill in your email</strong>
  </label>
  <input type="text" id="contact-email" name="email" />
</li>
...
```

# MESSAGING: ERRORS

```
.error input {
  border: 2px solid #b00;
  background: #ffdfdf;
}
.error input:focus {
  background: #fff;
}
```

## Message

marked \*.

Aaron Gustafson

< You forgot to fill in your email

format: 123-456-7890

I noticed a website error

Your homepage doesn't validate! And you call yourself a standardista.

```
...
<li class="error">
  <label for="contact-email">
    Email<abbr title="required">*</abbr><strong class="err"> You forgot
    to fill in your email</strong>
  </label>
  <input type="text" id="contact-email" name="email" />
</li>
...
```

## MESSAGING: ERRORS

### How do we notify users of errors?

It is best to be upfront about errors encountered and to say, in plain language, what the user needs to do to fix it

and linking to the field with errors doesn't hurt

### Send us a message

We encountered **1 error** while trying to process this form:

- You forgot to include [your email address](#)

Required fields are marked \*.

Name\*:

```
<form id="contact-form" action="test.php" method="get">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <div id="errors">
      <p>We encountered <strong>1 error</strong>
        while trying to process this form:</p>
      <ol>
        <li>You forgot to include <a
          href="#contact-email">your email
          address</a></li>
      </ol>
    </div>
    <p>Required fields are marked <abbr title="required">*</abbr>.</p>
    ...
```

# MESSAGING: ERRORS

## Send us a message

We encountered **1 error** while trying to process this form:

You forgot to include [your email address](#)

Required fields are marked \*.

Name\*:

Email\*:  < You

Phone:  format: 123-456-7890

Subject\*:

Message\*:

```
<form id="contact-form" action="test.php" method="get">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <div id="errors">
      <p>We encountered <strong>1 error</strong> while trying to process
        this form:</p>
      <ol>
        <li>You forgot to include <a href="#contact-email">your email
          address</a></li>
      </ol>
    </div>
    <p>Required fields are marked <abbr title="required">*</abbr>.</p>
    ...
```



# MESSAGING: ERRORS

```
#errors {
  background: #ffdfdf;
  border: 2px solid #b00;
  color: #333;
  margin: .5em 0 1em;
  padding: 10px;
}
```

## Send us a message

We encountered **1 error** while trying to process this form:

You forgot to include [your email address](#)

Required fields are marked \*.

Name\*:

Email\*:  < You

Phone:

Subject\*:

Message\*:

```
<form id="contact-form" action="test.php" method="get">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <div id="errors">
      <p>We encountered <strong>1 error</strong> while trying to process
        this form:</p>
      <ol>
        <li>You forgot to include <a href="#contact-email">your email
          address</a></li>
      </ol>
    </div>
    <p>Required fields are marked <abbr title="required">*</abbr>.</p>
    ...
```

# MESSAGING: ERRORS

```
#errors p {
  margin: 0;
  padding: 0;
}
#errors ol {
  list-style: disc;
  margin: 0 0 0 20px;
}
```

## Send us a message

We encountered **1 error** while trying to process this form:

- You forgot to include [your email address](#)

Required fields are marked \*.

Name\*:

Email\*:  < You

Phone:

Subject\*:

Message\*:

```
<form id="contact-form" action="test.php" method="get">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <div id="errors">
      <p>We encountered <strong>1 error</strong> while trying to process
        this form:</p>
      <ol>
        <li>You forgot to include <a href="#contact-email">your email
          address</a></li>
      </ol>
    </div>
    <p>Required fields are marked <abbr title="required">*</abbr>.</p>
    ...
```

# MESSAGING: ERRORS

```
#errors a {
  color: #b00;
}
```

## Send us a message

We encountered **1 error** while trying to process this form:

- You forgot to include [your email address](#)

Required fields are marked \*.

Name\*:

Email\*:  < You

Phone:  format: 123-456-7890

Subject\*:

Message\*:

```
<form id="contact-form" action="test.php" method="get">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Send us a message</legend>
    <div id="errors">
      <p>We encountered <strong>1 error</strong> while trying to process
        this form:</p>
      <ol>
        <li>You forgot to include <a href="#contact-email">your email
          address</a></li>
      </ol>
    </div>
    <p>Required fields are marked <abbr title="required">*</abbr>.</p>
    ...
```

## PARTING ADVICE

- treat forms like any other piece of (X)HTML
- be aware of browser inconsistencies & make accommodations (when possible)
- break a complex form into bite-size chunks
- look for ways to provide richer meaning/a better experience
- apply your CSS layout knowledge for the rest of the page to a form
- don't over-complicate form design
- learn to love forms

FORMS ARE  
**NOT**  
NECESSARILY  
**EVIL**

LEARNING  
TO LOVE  
FORMS  
WEBVISIONS 2007