

LEARNING
TO LOVE
FORMS
WEBVISIONS 2007



AARON GUSTAFSON
EASY! DESIGNS, LLC

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

Name

Email

Message

Go

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

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

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

The image shows a contact form with the following elements:

- Title: Send us a message
- Field 1: Name (text input)
- Field 2: Email (text input)
- Field 3: Message (text area)
- Button: 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, 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;
}
```

```
<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:

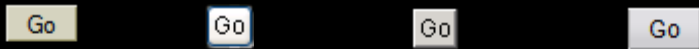
Message:

```
<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>
```

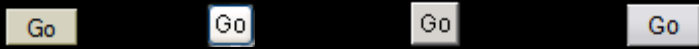
SIDEBAR: BUTTONS

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

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

Subject: I noticed a website error

Message:

I would prefer to be contacted by

email phone

GO

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:

```

<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

```
<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

GO

```
<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;  
}
```

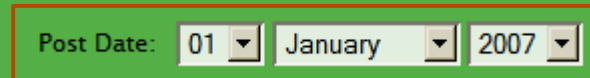
Search this site for

```
<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

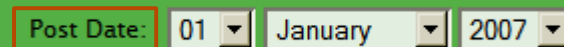


Post Date: 01 January 2007

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 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 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

Confine results to within the last year

the month of

a monthly range

from the start of

until the end of

Basic implicit LABEL
nothing shocking here

```
<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

We need to organize
this now

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"...
        </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 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

Send us a message

Required fields are marked *.

Name *

Email required

Phone:

Subject:

Message:

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.

```
<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*:

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: 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

I noticed a website error

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

< You forgot to fill in your email

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