

Rote Learning HTML & CSS

Jens Oliver Meiert



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For Benjamin Fiedler.

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Introduction

This is one of the most boring books you'll ever read.

It contains long lists of HTML elements and attributes and CSS selectors and properties.

Why bother? Why read this book?

Because it provides you with a unique opportunity to learn HTML and CSS, one that isn't available in this form elsewhere.

Its goal is to show you the rough and raw skeleton of HTML and CSS, so that you can focus on that. Elements, attributes, selectors, properties. No explanations, no examples, no context. The raw material.

The idea is that even when you only review this book once, you will already notice things about HTML and CSS that you weren't aware of and couldn't have noticed otherwise.

It's that when you thoroughly review the book, and memorize the various lists and tables, you're not an expert web developer (unless you've already been one)—but have a strengthened foundation to build upon.

That foundation—the elements and attributes, the selectors and properties—allows you to explore and practice more than you would have been able to, should you have not made the effort to review this book.

Apart from using boringness for the purpose of making you a better web developer, there's one more challenge to support that same purpose:

Although an ebook, the book deliberately uses few links.

From here on, your mission is to consult the actual, canonical HTML and CSS specifications, whenever you have a question related to HTML or CSS. Learn the spec URLs by heart (like “html.spec.whatwg.org” or “w3.org/TR/css”), and embrace weeding out previous spec versions and unauthoritative sources by locating the latest drafts. Make this a habit; study the specifications, always turn to them first. Doing so will provide you with the most accurate information—and, again, make you a better web developer.

HTML

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Elements

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Element Meanings

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Void Elements

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Elements With Optional Start or End Tags

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Element Categories

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Metadata Content

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Flow Content

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Sectioning Content

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Heading Content

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Phrasing Content

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Palpable Content

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Embedded Content

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Interactive Content

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Form-Associated Elements

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Labelable Elements

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Listed Elements

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Submittable Elements

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Resettable Elements

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Autocapitalize-Inheriting Elements

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Script-Supporting Elements

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Attributes

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Global Attributes

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...Excluding Event Handler Attributes

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...Including Event Handler Attributes

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Elements With Their Attributes

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CSS

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Selectors

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Properties

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at-Rules

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Conclusion

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Feedback

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About the Author

Jens Oliver Meiert is a frontend engineering leader (e.g., Google, Miro) and tech author/publisher (O'Reilly, Frontend Dogma). He's an expert in web development, specializing in HTML and CSS optimization and maintainability. Jens contributes to technical standards and regularly writes about his work and research, particularly on his website, meiert.com.

Other titles by Jens Oliver Meiert:

***On Web Development II* (2025)**

A comprehensive ebook marking another 10 years of meiert.com, featuring 180 curated articles on web development from 2015 to 2025.

Available at [Amazon](#), [Apple Books](#), [Kobo](#), [Google Play Books](#), and [Leanpub](#).

***Upgrade Your HTML* (2019–2024)**

The *Upgrade Your HTML* series is about one thing: Picking examples of HTML in the wild, and explaining how to make that code better. Kindly. Constructively. Thoroughly, as finding a balance between detail and brevity permits.

Available at [Amazon](#), [Apple Books](#), [Kobo](#), [Google Play Books](#), and [Leanpub](#).

The Web Development Glossary 3K **(2023)**

What is a BHO? CQRS? An EMD? What is Goanna? Hooking? Sharding? How about dynamic color, the phoenix server pattern, or the rules of ARIA? Covering more than 3,000 terms and concepts, and including explanations from Wikipedia and MDN Web Docs, *The Web Development Glossary 3K* provides an overview of web development unlike any other book or site.

Available at [Apple Books](#), [Kobo](#), [Google Play Books](#), and [Leanpub](#). (Try the glossary online at [WebGlossary.info](#).)

The Little Book of Little Books (2021)

The Little Book of Little Books consists of lovingly polished editions of *The Little Book of HTML/CSS Frameworks* (originally published in 2015), *The Little Book of HTML/CSS Coding Guidelines* (2015), and *The Little Book of Website Quality Control* (2016).

Available at [Amazon](#), [Apple Books](#), [Kobo](#), [Google Play Books](#), and [Leanpub](#).

CSS Optimization Basics (2018)

Are you unsure about your style sheets' quality, or whether you've maxed out your options? *CSS Optimization Basics* covers the necessary mindsets, discusses the main optimization methods, and presents useful resources to write higher-quality CSS.

Available at [Amazon](#), [Apple Books](#), [Kobo](#), [Google Play Books](#), and [Leanpub](#).

About *Rote Learning HTML & CSS*

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