

HTML Forms

Forms collect user input. Accessible forms connect every control to a visible label and provide instructions and errors that do not rely on placeholders or colour.

Basic form

```
<form action="register.php" method="post">
  <div class="form-group">
    <label for="username">Username</label>
    <p id="username-help">Use 3–50 letters, numbers or underscores.</p>
    <input id="username" name="username"
      autocomplete="username"
      aria-describedby="username-help"
      maxlength="50" required>
  </div>

  <div class="form-group">
    <label for="password">Password</label>
    <input id="password" name="password"
      type="password"
      autocomplete="new-password"
      required>
  </div>

  <button type="submit">Create account</button>
</form>
```

The label's `for` value matches the input's `id`. The `name` identifies the value submitted to PHP.

Useful input types

```
<input type="email" name="email">
<input type="number" name="capacity" min="1" max="100">
```

```
<input type="date" name="event_date">
<input type="file" name="dataset" accept=".csv,text/csv">
```

Input types and HTML constraints help users, but PHP must validate every submitted value again.

Related choices

```
<fieldset>
  <legend>Preferred output</legend>
  <label><input type="radio" name="output" value="table"> Table</label>
  <label><input type="radio" name="output" value="chart"> Chart</label>
</fieldset>
```

Use `fieldset` and `legend` for a related group.

Error summary

```
<div role="alert">
  <p>Please correct the following:</p>
  <ul>
    <li>Capacity must be from 1 to 100.</li>
  </ul>
</div>
```

Preserve valid values after an error when safe, and never return passwords to the form.

GET or POST

Use GET for non-sensitive searches and filters that may be bookmarked. Use POST for registration, login, file upload and operations that change stored data.

Check

- ☐ Every control has an associated label.
- ☐ Instructions remain visible.

- ☐ Appropriate input types and autocomplete values are used.
 - ☐ PHP repeats validation.
 - ☐ Errors are specific and accessible.
 - ☐ Forms contain only fictional data.
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