

## Basic Table Tags

The three most important tags for tables is the opening table tag, `<table>` and the table row and table data tags - `<tr>` and `<td>` respectively.

The `<tr>` tag represents a row for the table

The `<td>` tag represents a cell (or column) inside the row.

Now, with that in mind, let's create a simple table:

```
<table>  
<tr>  
<td>A</td>  
<td>B</td>  
<td>C</td>  
</tr>  
<tr>  
<td>X</td>  
<td>Y</td>  
<td>Z</td>  
</tr>  
</table>
```

And this is what the table would look like published:

```
ABC
XYZ
```

Notice that by looking at the code, you can tell how many rows and columns are included just by looking at the code. The two opening `<tr>` tags indicate two rows and the three opening `<td>` tags on each line represents three data cells (or three columns).

So if you wanted to add another row, you would just start with another `<tr>` and so forth....

## Adding Table Borders

Adding a border simply involves inserting the border attribute to the opening table tag. So in the above table the code would be adjusted accordingly:

```
<table border="2">
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Z</td>
</tr>
</table>
```

Notice the "2" represents the thickness of the border. If you had set it to "0" then there would have been no border at all. If you wanted it very thick then you could set it to 8, for example. So now your table will look like this:



A	B	C
X	Y	Z

## Changing a Table's Border Color

You can change the color of a table border by simply adding the **bordercolor** attribute.

```
<table border="2" bordercolor="red">
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Z</td>
</tr>
</table>
```

And here's what it would look like...



A	B	C
X	Y	Z

## Adjusting Table Cell Spacing and Cell Padding

You can increase the space within the table cells and the space between the cells by using the **cellpadding** and **cellspacing** attributes.

The **cellspacing** attribute adjusts the space between the cells and **cellpadding** adjusts the space within (around) the cell.

```
<table border="2" cellspacing="10" cellpadding="3">
<tr><td>A</td> <td>B</td> <td>C</td> </tr>
<tr><td>X</td> <td>Y</td> <td>Z</td> </tr>
</table>
```

This is what the table would look like now...

A	B	C
X	Y	Z

See how setting the cellspacing attribute to "10" drastically increased the spacing between the cells, and the cellpadding attribute set to "3" added a little of space within each individual cell.

If you want a table to have a single border (with no border around the letters), simply set the cellspacing to "0" and your table will look like this....

A	B	C
X	Y	Z

## Specifying a Table Width

You can specify the width of a table by using either a percentage or a pixel width.

```
<table width="100%" border="2">
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Z</td>
</tr>
</table>
```

Since the width is set to 100% that means the table will take up 100% of the screen and the columns in the table will be adjusted evenly. Here's what it would look like.

A	B	C
X	Y	Z

As we mentioned, you can also set the table width using pixels instead of percentages. So instead of setting it to 100%, you could set it to 300 pixels:

```
<table width="300" border="2">
<tr><td>A</td> <td>B</td> <td>C</td> </tr>
<tr><td>X</td> <td>Y</td> <td>Z</td> </tr>
</table>
```

The table would look like this:

A	B	C
X	Y	Z

## Setting Column Widths

Sometimes you may not always want your columns to be the same width. If this is the case, you need to set values on your table data <td> cells. Again, you can set them by using percentages or pixel widths.

```
<table width="300" border="2">
<tr>
<td width="70%">A</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td width="70%">X</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Z</td>
</tr>
</table>
```

This is what this table would look like.

A	B	C
X	Y	Z

See how the column width for the first column in both rows is set to 70%. Notice there is no value set for the other 2 columns. If you do not set a value for the remaining columns, their width will automatically be adjusted to take up the remaining space and they'll share it equally.

Since the table width is set to 300 pixels, and the first column is instructed to take up 70% of those 300 pixels (roughly 210 pixels), the other 2 columns divide the remaining 30% of the table equally (roughly 45 pixels a piece).

You could also have expressed the column widths of this table in pixels instead of percentages. The code would have looked like this:

```
<table width="300" border="2">
<tr>
<td width="210">A</td>
<td width="45">B</td>
<td width="45">C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td width="210">A</td>
<td width="45">B</td>
<td width="45">C</td>
</tr>
</table>
```

A	B	C
A	B	C

See how the width of the columns in each row add up to 300 (210 + 45 + 45) -- which is the width of the table.

### What's the Difference Between Using Percentages and Pixel Widths?

Many people prefer to express their table width and column widths in percentages because that will ensure that the table takes up the same amount of screen no matter how big or small the screen resolution is.

If someone is using a 21 inch monitor to view your site and you have a table width set to 300 pixels, the table will show up very small on their screen. However if you set the table width to 70%, it will take up 70% of the screen no matter what size monitor the person is using.

Or, let's say you create a table that is 760 pixels wide and someone has a 15 inch monitor set to a 640x480 resolution, then that person will have to scroll left and right just to see the entire table.

On the other hand, if you set the table width to 100%, the table will fit the screen no matter what resolution the browser is set to.

So it's really up to you to decide what's the best layout for your tables. Personally I prefer to use percentages. That way the table takes up the same amount of screen no matter what size monitor/resolution people are using.

### Specifying a Table's Height

You can also set the table height by adding the height tag to the table code.

```
<table height="250" width="300" border="2">
<tr>
<td width="210">A</td>
<td width="45">B</td>
<td width="45">C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td width="210">A</td>
<td width="45">B</td>
<td width="45">C</td>
</tr>
</table>
```

Which will produce the following table:

