xhtml & validation
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• Wouldn’t it be nice to have something that checks html syntax?
https://validator.w3.org
Different levels/versions of checks are available.
XHTML 1.0 Strict Cheat Sheet

See also: XHTML Basic 1.1 cheat sheet — Recommended Doctype Declarations — XHTML Flavors comparisons.

Getting started

A minimal English XHTML 1.0 Strict document would look like the following:

```xml
<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Strict//EN" "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-strict.dtd">
<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml" lang="en" xml:lang="en">
<head>
  <title>My page title</title>
</head>
<body>
  
</body>
</html>
```

This is a good place to start.
<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Strict//EN"
  "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-strict.dtd">
<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml" lang="en" xml:lang="en">
<head>
  <title>My page title</title>
</head>
<body>

</body>
</html>
Let’s put their cheat sheet into their validator and see what happens.
Success but two warnings?!

Let’s see what they are.
necessary, fix them and re-validate the document.

No Character encoding declared at document level

No character encoding information was found within the document, either in an HTML meta element or an XML declaration. It is often recommended to declare the character encoding in the document itself, especially if there is a chance that the document will be read from or saved to disk, CD, etc.

See this tutorial on character encoding for techniques and explanations.

Using Direct Input mode: UTF-8 character encoding assumed

Unlike the "by URI" and "by File Upload" modes, the "Direct Input" mode of the validator provides validated content in the form of characters pasted or typed in the validator's form field. This will automatically make the data UTF-8, and therefore the validator does not need to determine the character encoding of your document, and will ignore any charset information specified.

If you notice a discrepancy in detected character encoding between the "Direct Input" mode and other validator modes, this is likely to be the reason. It is neither a bug in the validator, nor in your document.

Congratulations

The uploaded document was successfully checked as XHTML 1.0 Strict. This means that the resource in question identified itself as "XHTML 1.0 Strict" and that we successfully performed a formal validation of it. The parser implementations we used for this check are based on OpenSP (SGML/XML) and libxml2 (XML).

"valid" Icon(s) on your Web page

To show your readers that you have taken the care to create an interoperable Web page, you may display this icon on any page that validates. Here is the HTML you could use to add this icon to your Web page:

```html
&lt;p&gt;&lt;a href='https://validator.w3.org/check?uri=referer'&gt;&lt;img src='http://www.w3.org/Icons/valid-xhtml10' alt='Valid XHTML 1.0 Strict' height='31' width='88'/&gt;&lt;/a&gt;&lt;/p&gt;
```

A full list of icons, with links to alternate formats and colors, is available. If you like, you can download a copy of the
<DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Strict//EN" "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-strict.dtd">
<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml" lang="en" xml:lang="en">
<head>
<meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html; charset=utf-8" />
<title>My page title</title>
</head>
<body>

</body>
</html>
Better. The validator wants the encoding but ignores it for direct input.

Let’s put it in a file instead.
HAPPY, HAPPY, HAPPY!
Now we can add something to our document that says, “We care!”
<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Strict//EN"
 "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-strict.dtd">
<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml" lang="en" xml:lang="en">
<head>
<meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html; charset=utf-8" />
<title>My page title</title>
</head>
<body>
<p>
<a href="http://validator.w3.org/check?uri=referer"><img src="http://www.w3.org/Icons/valid-xhtml10" alt="Valid XHTML 1.0 Strict" height="31" width="88" /></a>
</p>
</body>
</html>
HAPPY, HAPPY, HAPPY!