HTML Tables: Tags and HTML Attributes

Table Tags: The <table> tag defines an HTML table. A simple HTML table consists of the table element and one or more tr, th, and td elements. The tr element defines a table row, the th element defines a table header, and the td element defines a table cell. A more complex HTML table may also include caption, col, colgroup, thead, tbody, and tfoot elements.

- <TABLE ...> Begins a Table
- <TR ...> Table Row
- <TD ...> Table Data
- <TH ...> Table Header
- <COL ...> Column
- <COLGROUP ...> Column Group
- <CAPTION ...>
- <THEAD ...> Table Header Section
- <TBODY ...> Table Body Section
- <TFOOT ...> Table Footer Section

Table HTML Attributes (as described in HTML rather than in Styles - Tables can ALSO be and most often SHOULD be styled)

- BORDER: size of border around the table
- CELLPADDING: space between the edge of a cell and the contents
- CELLS spacing: space between cells
- WIDTH: width of the table as a whole
- BGCOLOR: color of the background
- BACKGROUND: picture to use as background
- ALIGN: alignment of table to surrounding text
- HSPACE: horizontal space between table and surrounding text
- VSPACE: vertical space between table and surrounding text
- HEIGHT: height of the table as a whole
TABLES AND CELLS:

Tables can be defined in number of pixels or in percentage of screen width. The HTML table model allows authors to arrange data -- text, preformatted text, images, links, forms, form fields, other tables, etc. -- into rows and columns of CELLS. Cells can fall across multiple rows and columns. Tables and cells can be given individual attributes or PROPERTIES such as background color, image data or hotlinks.

This is a simple example of a table. It is formatted to show up as 75% of the display width, centered upon the screen, with a two pixel borderline and one pixel cellpadding. It is composed of two columns and two rows which define four cells, each given a different background color:

![Table example](image_url)

This is the HTML "code" which defines this table (for illustration purposes, I used HTML formatting to color the tables. It is better to use styles):

```html
<table width="75%" border="2" align="center" cellpadding="1">
  <tr>
    <td bgcolor="red">&nbsp;</td>
    <td bgcolor="green">&nbsp;</td>
  </tr>
  <tr>
    <td bgcolor="blue">&nbsp;</td>
    <td bgcolor="#yellow">&nbsp;</td>
  </tr>
</table>
```

A "&nbsb;" is a Non-breaking white space.
Below, I modified this same table to combine the two rows in column one, and put an image in it. Notice that the height and width of the cells compensated for the size of the image. Then I added text and a hotlink to the "green cell" in column two:

![Image](fruit.jpg)  
Return to Top of Page

This is the HTML "code" which defines this table. Table cells can span across more than one column or row. The attributes COLSPAN ("how many across") and ROWSPAN ("how many down") indicate how many columns or rows a cell should take up. In this case, we have a ROWSPAN of "2" in which we have placed an image. The color of the "Return to Top of Page" link can be modified in Styles.

The code, `<img src="fruit.jpg">` tells your browser where to find the image "shell.jpg" and `<a href="#top">` describes the hyperlink which links to a "named anchor" in the page:

```
<table width="75%" border="2" align="center" cellpadding="1">
  <tr>
    <td rowspan="2"><img src="fruit.jpg"></td>
    <td bgcolor="green"><div align="center"></div></td>
  </tr>
  <tr>
    <td bgcolor="yellow"><a href="#top">Return to Top of Page</a></td>
  </tr>
</table>
```

For more detailed information on creating HTML tables, you might want to look at W3.org's site at:  
[http://www.w3.org/TR/REC-html40/struct/tables.html#h-11.1](http://www.w3.org/TR/REC-html40/struct/tables.html#h-11.1)