



OSU Minimum Web Accessibility Standards (rev. 06/30/2004)

<http://www.wac.ohio-state.edu/standards/>



Standard 9 -- Table Headers. Markup shall be used to associate data cells and header cells for data tables that have two or more logical levels of row or column headers .

Examples:

9.1 -- Table cells are associated with the appropriate headers (e.g. id, headers, scope and/or axis HTML attributes).

Standard 9 -- Table Headers.

See also: [Standard 8 -- Tables.](#)

Do	Don't
Consider using ID to associate each cell of a data table with its header.	Create a sub-table (table within a table) without associating each cell with its appropriate header.

Why: Unlike using the "scope" attribute, using the "id" and "headers" attributes requires that every data cell in a table include special attributes for association. It can be useful when tables include sub-tables or subsets of data, as it helps insure each cell is associated with the appropriate descriptive header.

How: Define the header using the "id" attribute in the <th> element. Then specify the correct header using the "headers" attribute in the <td> element of each data cell.

Sample HTML table code:

```
<table>
<tr>
<th>&nbsp;</th>
<th colspan="2" id="winter" >Winter</th>
<th colspan="2" id="summer" >Summer</th>
</tr>
<tr>
<th>&nbsp;</th>
<th id="am1" >Morning</th>
<th id="pm1" >Afternoon</th>
<th id="am2" >Morning</th>
<th id="pm2" >Afternoon</th>
</tr>
<tr>
<td id="wilma" >Wilma</td>
<td headers="wilma am1 winter" >9-11</td>
<td headers="wilma pm1 winter" >12-6</td>
<td headers="wilma am2 summer" >7-11</td>
<td headers="wilma pm2 summer" >12-3</td>
```

```

</tr>
<tr>
<td id="fred" >Fred</td>
<td headers="fred am1 winter" >10-11</td>
<td headers="fred pm1 winter" >12-6</td>
<td headers="fred am2 summer" >9-11</td>
<td headers="fred pm2 summer" >12-5</td>
</tr>
</table>
    
```

End code.

This table would be displayed as follows:

	Winter		Summer	
	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon
Wilma	9-11	12-6	7-11	12-3
Fred	10-11	12-6	9-11	12-5

Get more help with data tables, visit [WebAIM's "Creating Accessible Tables."](#)

OSU Web Accessibility Center -- 2004. All documents in this guide may be reproduced and distributed in print or electronic format only if offered at no cost to recipients. Visit the WAC online: www.wac.ohio-state.edu. Email the WAC: webaccess@osu.edu.