



## **The Handbook**

### **Codex**

[http://codex.wordpress.org/Template\\_Tags/list\\_cats](http://codex.wordpress.org/Template_Tags/list_cats)

### **Version Date**

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# Template Tags/list cats

## Description

Displays a list of categories as links. This works like the [wp\\_list\\_cats](#) tag, except that this one uses a long query string of arguments and the other uses text-based query arguments.

## Usage

```
<?php list_cats(optional, 'all', 'sort_column',  
                'sort_order', 'file', list, optiondates,  
                optioncount, hide_empty, use_desc_for_title,  
                children, child_of, 'categories', recurse,  
                'feed', 'feed_img', 'exclude',  
                hierarchical); ?>
```

## Examples

### Default List

Displays the list of categories using default settings:

```
<?php list_cats(); ?>
```

### Sorted by Category Name

Displays the list of categories, with not all categories linked, and sorted by category name:

```
<?php list_cats(FALSE, ' ', 'name'); ?>
```

### Customized List with Excluded Categories

Sets the list to not list all the categories (based upon further parameters), sorts by ID in ascending order and in an unordered list (`<ul><li>`) without dates or post counts, does not hide empty categories, uses category "description" for the title in the links, does not show the children of the parent categories, and excludes categories 1 and 33:

```
<?php list_cats(FALSE, '', 'ID',  
                'asc', '', TRUE, FALSE,  
                FALSE, FALSE, TRUE,  
                FALSE, FALSE, '', FALSE,  
                '', '', '1,33',  
                TRUE); ?>
```

## ***Notes on use***

When the 'list' parameter is set for an unordered list, the list\_cats() tag automatically begins and ends with `UL` and each item listed as an `LI`.

## ***Parameters***

optionall

(*boolean*) Sets whether to have an option to display all categories. Valid values:

- `TRUE` (Default)
- `FALSE`

all

(*string*) Text to display for the option to display all categories. Defaults to `'All'`.

sort\_column

(*string*) Key to sort options by. Valid values:

- `'ID'` (Default)
- `'name'`

sort\_order

(*string*) Sort order for options. Valid values:

- `'asc'` (Default)
- `'desc'`

file

(*string*) The php file a category link is to be displayed on. Defaults to `'index.php'`.

list

(*boolean*) Sets whether the categories are enclosed in an unordered list (`<ul><li>`). Valid values:

- `TRUE` (Default)
- `FALSE`

optiondates

(*boolean*) Sets whether to display the date of the last post in each category. Valid values:

- `TRUE`
- `FALSE` (Default)

optioncount

(*boolean*) Sets whether to display a count of posts in each category. Valid values:

- `TRUE`
- `FALSE` (Default)

hide\_empty

(*boolean*) Sets whether to hide (not display) categories with no posts. Valid values:

- `TRUE` (Default)
- `FALSE`

use\_desc\_for\_title

(*boolean*) Sets whether the category description is displayed as link title (i.e. <a title="Category Description" href="..."). Valid values:

- TRUE (Default)
- FALSE

children

(*boolean*) Sets whether to show children (sub) categories. Valid values:

- TRUE
- FALSE (Default)

child\_of

(*integer*) Display only the categories that are children of this category (ID number). There is no default.

categories

(*integer*) This parameter should be set to 0 (zero) when calling this template tag. (For the curious, other values are used *only internally* by the tag when generating a hierarchical list.)

recurse

(*boolean*) Display the list (FALSE) or return it for use in PHP (TRUE). Defaults to FALSE.

feed

(*string*) Text to display for the link to each category's [RSS2](#) feed. Default is no text, and no feed displayed.

feed\_image

(*string*) Path/filename for a graphic to act as a link to each categories' RSS2 feed. Overrides the **feed** parameter.

exclude

(*string*) Sets the categories to be excluded. This must be in the form of an array (ex: '1, 2, 3').

hierarchical

(*boolean*) Sets whether to display child (sub) categories in a hierarchical (after parent) list. Valid values:

- TRUE (Default)
- FALSE

**Note: The hierarchical parameter is not available in versions of WordPress prior to 1.5**

## ***Related***

To use the query string to pass parameters to generate a list of categories, see [wp\\_list\\_cats\(\)](#)

[the\\_category](#), [the\\_category\\_rss](#), [the\\_category\\_ID](#) (Deprecated), [the\\_category\\_head](#) (Deprecated), [single\\_cat\\_title](#), [category\\_description](#), [dropdown\\_cats](#), [list\\_cats](#), [wp\\_list\\_cats](#)