

Field Hints / Contextual Help

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In this Article

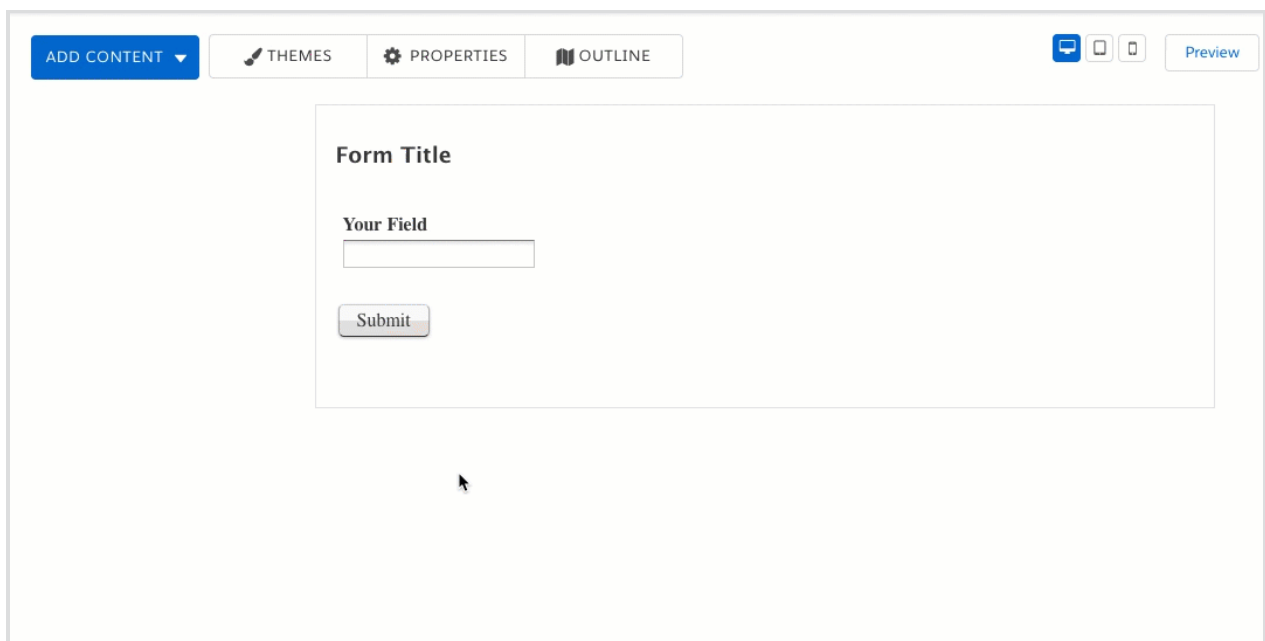
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Introduction

A hint is a helpful little companion to a form field. They give you handy clues and directions about what's needed. [Read more on our blog](#). You can also [see our example form](#) for hints in action, or [get the template](#).

Add a Hint

1. Select the field by clicking in the highlighted area to bring up the [editing toolbar](#).
2. Click on the **Options** button.
3. On the [sidebar](#), click to expand the **Contextual Help (Hint)** menu.
4. From here, you can type the help message, choose the location of the hint, and add placeholder text.



The screenshot shows a form editor interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with buttons: 'ADD CONTENT' (with a dropdown arrow), 'THEMES' (with a pencil icon), 'PROPERTIES' (with a gear icon), and 'OUTLINE' (with a book icon). On the right side of the navigation bar are icons for desktop, tablet, and mobile views, followed by a 'Preview' button. The main area of the editor displays a form with the following elements: a 'Form Title' label, a 'Your Field' label above a text input field, and a 'Submit' button below the input field. A mouse cursor is visible near the bottom center of the form area.

You can choose the hint location **per field** or change the default location **for all fields** on the form. In the **Layout** settings of the Properties menu, you may select the form's settings for the placement of the [hints](#) and [labels](#).

Form Properties

> Name & Language

Layout

Width

E.g: 700px, or 100%.

Default Label Position

Above

Default Hint Position

Below

Placement

You can add hints below, on the side, in a pop-up, or as placeholder text. Each location has different benefits, so you should think about what you need and how your respondents are going to see the form. It's all about their experience, so you want the hints to be as helpful as possible!

Here's a handy pros and cons list:

Below

A field

a hint message displayed below the field.

- Visible even when you're not typing in the field.
- Good if this hint should stand out with just a quick glance at the page. Otherwise, it can add clutter.
- Works better with less space (e.g. narrow form, sidebar form).

To the Side

Another field

a hint displayed on the right of the field.
HTML markup is allowed, by the way.

- Just like the "below" hint, it's visible even when you're not typing in the field.
- Also good if this hint should stand out with just a quick glance at the page. Otherwise, it can add clutter.
- Best if you've got empty space on the side, in a full-page form.

As a Pop-Up

Field with
pop-up hint

this hint is displayed in a pop-up - when the
field is in focus.

- Hidden until the field is selected, so it's clutter-free.
- Make sure it's something unique to the field, like an expected input format: *mm/dd/yyyy*

As Placeholder Text

Field with
placeholder

hint text goes here.

- Most space-efficient and nothing extra needed.
 - Disappears as soon as the text is typed, which can be confusing if the respondent didn't pay close attention. (If the field requires a very specific format, consider a [Custom Format](#) instead.)
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