You're much closer to using XHTML than you might think

Even though HTML and XHTML are almost the same, there are a few small differences, as you've seen. Here's a handy checklist for moving from HTML 4.01 Strict to XHTML 1.0 Strict:

The XHTML 1.0 checklist

Here's the list of things you must do to convert from HTML to XHTML.

- Change your DOCTYPE to Strict XHTML. Or, you can use Transitional XHTML if you're still using Transitional HTML.
- Add the xmlns, lang, and xml:lang attributes to your <html> opening tag.
- The <html> tag must be the first tag after the DOCTYPE and the </html> closing tag must be the last tag in the document.
- All element names must be written with lowercase letters.
- All opening tags must have closing tags. Or, if an element is empty, the tag must end with a space and then />.
- All attributes must have values, and those values must be surrounded by double quotes.
- Don't use & in the content of your HTML. & is for starting entities, so use &amp; instead. Also convert any other special characters to entities.

If you started from scratch reading this book and you've been diligent in using strict HTML 4.01, then moving to XHTML 1.0 is going to be fast for you. You really only have a few things you need to take care of, and we'll talk about those next.

On the other hand, if you have a lot of legacy HTML you need to convert, then you may have a big job on your hands. But, even in that case, there are some tools that can help get you there. We'll talk about those too.