

Semantics

Previous versions of HTML used elements for organizational and layout purposes...

HTML5 does all of this, but the elements also have a **semantic meaning**. Proper use of HTML5 means paying attention to the semantics.

Some Basic Elements

We will go through a series of elements to indicate their purpose and semantics.

<header>...</header>: the **header** element represents material that should appear at the top of a webpage such as the title, subtitle, author, and maybe some navigation.

<main>...</main>: the **main** element represents the bulk of the page that is unique or special content, excluding the header or footer.

<footer>...</footer>: this is stuff that goes at the bottom of the page such as copyright statement, indemnity info, links to other sites, etc.

Some Basic Elements

h1-h6 elements: besides **h1** for title, and **h2** for a subtitle, etc., these should generally follow the convention that **h_{i+1}** gives a section title, where that section is a subsection of another section titled by **h_i**.

<small>...</small>: for a legal disclaimer, copyright, last updated info, etc.

Some Basic Elements

<p>...</p>: paragraph elements are used for paragraphs but more generally as items/thoughts that are grouped thematically, e.g., the section of a web form for the spice level of an Indian curry.

<section>...</section>: bigger than a paragraph, a collection of linked ideas: introduction, methods, conclusions for a scientific article, for example.

<article>...</article>: an entity unto itself such as an entire blog post, etc.

Special Entities

Because `<` and `>` are used for tags, we need special escape sequences to represent them:

< renders `<`

> renders `>`

Then, because **&** is used in an escape sequence, we use:

& to render **&**. Another useful one is:

© to produce ©.

If you want two words to be spaced but not appear on separate lines, you can use a non-breaking space: ** **