

## Nested Elements

HTML elements may contain other elements. This is called *nesting*, and to do it properly, the entire element (including its markup) must be within the start and end tags of the containing element (the *parent*). Proper nesting is one of the criteria of a well-formed document (a requirement for XHTML).

In this example, list items (`li`) are nested within an unordered list element (`ul`).

```
<ul>
  <li>Example 1</li>
  <li>Example 2</li>
</ul>
```

A common mistake made when nesting elements is to close the parent element before the element it contains (its *child*) has been closed. This results in an incorrect overlapping of elements that would make an XHTML document *malformed* and may cause rendering problems for HTML documents. In this example, the elements are incorrectly nested because the `strong` element should have been closed before the `a` (anchor).

INCORRECT: `<a href="#">Click <strong>here.</a></strong>`

## Information Browsers Ignore

Some information in an HTML document, including certain markup, is ignored or has little to no impact on presentation when the document is viewed in a browser or other user agent. These include:

### Line breaks

Line returns in the HTML document are treated as spaces, which then typically collapse with other spaces (see next point). Text and elements wrap continuously until they encounter a `p` or `br` element within the flow of the document text. Line breaks are displayed, however, when text is marked up as a preformatted (`pre`) element or styled with the `white-space: pre` property in a style sheet.

### Tabs and multiple spaces

When a user agent encounters more than one consecutive blank character space in an HTML document, it displays it as a single space. So, if the document contains:

far, far away  
the browser displays:

far, far away

Extra spaces can be added within the flow of text by using the non-breaking space character entity (`&nbsp;`). Multiple spaces are displayed, however, when text is marked up as preformatted text (`pre`) or with the `white-space: pre` property in a style sheet. Tabs in the source document are problematic for some browsers and are best avoided.

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