# *Semantic elements in HTML*

*By : Amina Yasmine MOUDJAR*

What are semantic elements ?

HTML was orginally created as markup language to describe documents on the early internet, and with the evolution if the internet it needed to change. Where the internet was originally for sharing scientific documents, people now wanted to share other things as well, and the web needed to look nicer.

Semantic elements are those that clearly describe their meaning in a human and machine readable way, they describe the purpose of the element and the type of content that is inside them.

List of the most used semantic elements :

<article>

<aside>

<details>

<figcaption>

<figure>

<footer>

<header>

<main>

<mark>

<nav>

<section>

<summary>

<time>

Elements such as <header>, <nav>, <section>, <article>, <aside>, and <footer> act more or less like <div> elements. They group other elements together into page sections. However where a <div> tag could contain any type of information, it is easy to identify what sort of information would go in a semantic <header> region.

Source : [Semantic HTML5 Elements Explained (freecodecamp.org)](https://www.freecodecamp.org/news/semantic-html5-elements/)

Benefits of writing semantic elements :

* Search engines will consider its contents as important keywords to influence the page's search rankings (see SEO)
* Screen readers can use it as a signpost to help visually impaired users navigate a page
* Finding blocks of meaningful code is significantly easier than searching through endless divs with or without semantic or namespaced classes
* Suggests to the developer the type of data that will be populated
* Semantic naming mirrors proper custom element/component naming

Source : [Semantics - MDN Web Docs Glossary: Definitions of Web-related terms | MDN (mozilla.org)](https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Glossary/Semantics)