

# Introduction to Basic HTML & HTML5

HTML, or HyperText Markup Language, is a markup language used to describe the structure of a web page. It uses a special syntax or notation to organize and give information about the page to the browser. Elements usually have opening and closing tags that surround and give meaning to content. For example, there are different tag options to place around text to show whether it is a heading, a paragraph, or a list.

For example:

```
<h1>Top level heading: Maybe a page title</h1>
<p>A paragraph of text. Some information we would like to communicate to the viewer.
This can be as long or short as we would like.</p>
<ol>
  <li>Number one on the list</li>
  <li>Number two</li>
  <li>A third item</li>
</ol>
```

Becomes:

## Top level heading: Maybe a page title

A paragraph of text. Some information we would like to communicate to the user. This can be as long or short as we would like.

1. Number one on the list
2. Number two
3. A third item

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The HyperText part of HTML comes from the early days of the web and its original use case. Pages usually contained static documents that contained references to other documents. These references contained hypertext links used by the browser to navigate to the reference document, so the user could read the reference document without having to manually search for it.

As web pages and web applications grow more complex, the W3 Consortium updates the HTML specification to ensure that a webpage can be shown reliably on any browser. The latest version of HTML is HTML5.

This section introduces how to use HTML elements to give structure and meaning to your web content.