

The **HTML `` element** is a generic inline container for phrasing content, which does not inherently represent anything. It can be used to group elements for styling purposes (using the `class` or `id` attributes), or because they share attribute values, such as `lang`. It should be used only when no other semantic element is appropriate. `` is very much like a `<div>` element, but `<div>` is a block-level element whereas a `` is an inline element.

Content categories	Flow content, phrasing content.
Permitted content	Phrasing content.
Tag omission	None, both the starting and ending tag are mandatory.
Permitted parents	Any element that accepts phrasing content, or any element that accepts flow content.
Implicit ARIA role	No corresponding role
Permitted ARIA roles	Any
DOM interface	HTMLSpanElement (before HTML5, the interface was HTMLInputElement)

Attributes

This element only includes the global attributes.

Example

Example 1

HTML

```
<p><span>Some text</span></p>
```

Result

Example 2

HTML

```
<li><span>  
  <a href="portfolio.html" target="_blank">See my portfolio</a>  
</span></li>
```

CSS

```
li span {  
  background: gold;  
}
```