

HTML5 Guide

Sectional Elements

These semantic structural elements are for organizing and segmenting a document.

Element	Code	Note
Article	<code><article></article></code>	<p>An article should be able to stand by itself and it should be possible to distribute it independently from the rest of the site.</p> <p>Potential uses for the <code><article></code> element are to define:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Forum post• Blog post• News story• Comment• Essay• Thesis• Short story
Aside	<code><aside></aside></code>	<p>Creates a section to contain content that is tangentially related to the web page's primary content.</p> <p>Asides are frequently presented as sidebars or call-out boxes.</p>
Footer	<code><footer></footer></code>	<p>Indicates the footer area of its parent. When it is the last child of the <code><body></code> it contains the content that will appear at the bottom of every page. When it is the last child of the <code><article></code> will often contain information about the author, copyright data, and reference links</p>
Header	<code><header></header></code>	<p>Creates the header section of its parent and contains introductory content. When its parent is the <code><body></code> it will contain that content that will be at the top of every page.</p>

Main	<pre> <main> <article>. . .</article> <article>. . .</article> <div>. . .</div> </main> </pre>	<p>The main element identifies document-specific content.</p> <p>The content inside the main element should be unique to the document. It should not contain any content that is repeated across documents such as sidebars, navigation links, copyright information, site logos, and search forms.</p> <p>Note: There must never be more than one main element in a document. The main element must be a direct child of the body element, and it cannot be a descendent of any other element.</p>
Nav	<pre> <nav></nav> </pre>	<p>Used to define a site's navigational system.</p> <p>Usually, it will contain a list but can contain other content.</p> <p>Unnecessary for reference links such as within an article.</p>
Section	<pre> <section></section> </pre>	<p>A section is a thematic grouping of content.</p> <p>It is often used within sectional elements, such as the <article>, to divide it into sections.</p> <p>Will usually open with a heading.</p>