HTML Elements

An HTML element usually consists of a **start** tag and an **end** tag, with the content inserted in between:

<tagname>Content goes here...</tagname>

The HTML **element** is everything from the start tag to the end tag:

<p>My first paragraph.</p>

Start tag	Element content	End tag
<h1>	My First Heading	</h1>
<p>	My first paragraph.	</p>
 	b	

> HTML elements with no content are called empty elements. Empty elements do not have an end tag, such as the <br> element (which indicates a line break).

Nested HTML Elements

HTML elements can be nested (elements can contain elements).

All HTML documents consist of nested HTML elements.

This example contains four HTML elements:

Example

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<body>

<h1>My First Heading</h1>
<p>My first paragraph.</p>

</body>
</html>
```

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Example Explained

The `<html>` element defines the **whole document**.

It has a **start** tag <html> and an **end** tag </html>.

Inside the <html> element is the `<body>` element.

```
<html>
<body>

<h1>My First Heading</h1>
<p>My first paragraph.</p>

</body>
</html>
```

The `<body>` element defines the **document body**.

It has a **start** tag <body> and an **end** tag </body>.

Inside the <body> element is two other HTML elements: `<h1>` and `<p>`.

```
<body>

<h1>My First Heading</h1>
<p>My first paragraph.</p>

</body>
```

The `<h1>` element defines a **heading**.

It has a **start** tag <h1> and an **end** tag </h1>.

The element **content** is: My First Heading.

```
<h1>My First Heading</h1>
```

The `<p>` element defines a **paragraph**.

It has a **start** tag <p> and an **end** tag </p>.

The element **content** is: My first paragraph.

```
<p>My first paragraph.</p>
```

Do Not Forget the End Tag

Some HTML elements will display correctly, even if you forget the end tag:

Example

```
<html>
<body>

<p>This is a paragraph
<p>This is a paragraph

</body>
</html>
```

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The example above works in all browsers, because the closing tag is considered optional.

Never rely on this. It might produce unexpected results and/or errors if you forget the end tag.

Empty HTML Elements

HTML elements with no content are called empty elements.

`<br>` is an empty element without a closing tag (the `<br>` tag defines a line break):

Example

```
<p>This is a <br> paragraph with a line break.</p>
```

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Empty elements can be "closed" in the opening tag like this: <br />.

HTML5 does not require empty elements to be closed. But if you want stricter validation, or if you need to make your document readable by XML parsers, you must close all HTML elements properly.

HTML Is Not Case Sensitive

HTML tags are not case sensitive: <P> means the same as <p>.

The HTML5 standard does not require lowercase tags, but W3C **recommends** lowercase in HTML, and **demands** lowercase for stricter document types like XHTML.