

CHAPTER 2

BASIC TAGS AND ELEMENTS

Learning Objectives:

After reading this INFORMATION SHEET, YOU MUST be able to:

- ❖ Understand HTML basic tags and know how they behave, while formatting a textual document;
- ❖ Learn how to combine basic HTML elements to create Web pages;
- ❖ Differentiate tags and elements;

This chapter demonstrates about the HTML Basics which are used to define frequently used tags to develop web pages.

CHAPTER 2.1: Basic HTML tags

The following are HTML Tags you will use often. As you advance in HTML you will get to know more tags that are also useful.

Heading Tags

Any document starts with a heading. You can use different sizes for your headings. HTML also has six levels of headings, which use the elements **<h1>**, **<h2>**, **<h3>**, **<h4>**, **<h5>**, and **<h6>**. While displaying any heading, browser adds one line before and one line after that heading.

Example

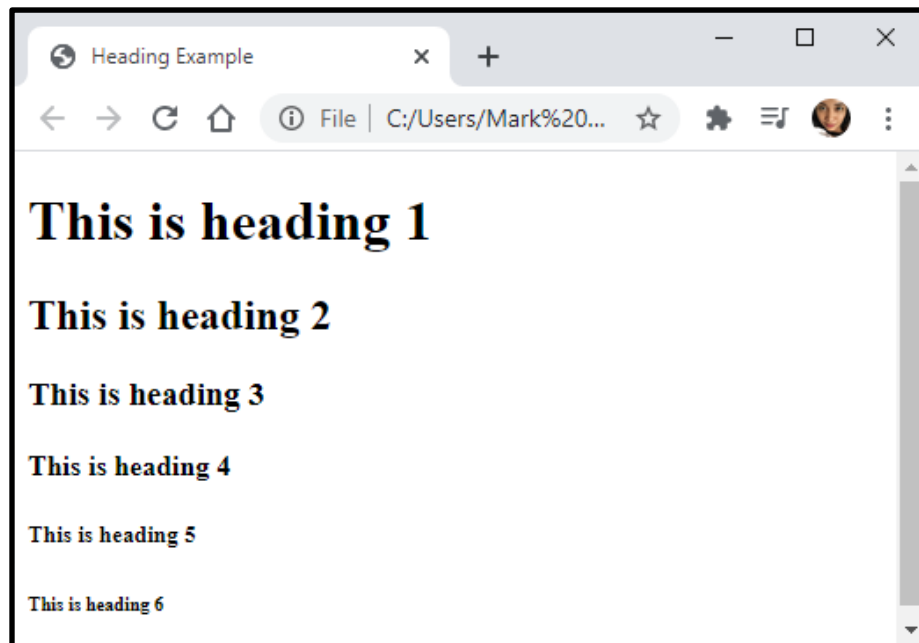
```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>

  <head>
    <title>Heading Example</title>
  </head>

  <body>
    <h1>This is heading 1</h1>
    <h2>This is heading 2</h2>
    <h3>This is heading 3</h3>
    <h4>This is heading 4</h4>
    <h5>This is heading 5</h5>
    <h6>This is heading 6</h6>
  </body>

</html>
```

This will produce the following result –



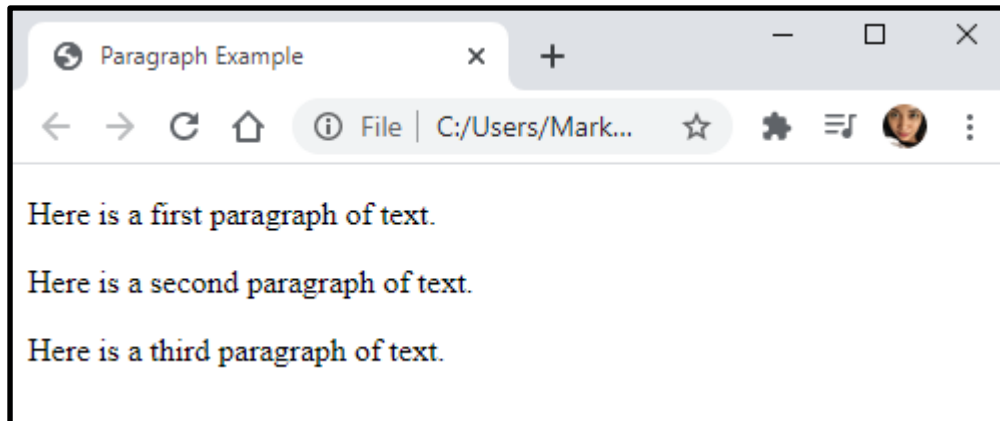
Paragraph Tag

The **<p>** tag offers a way to structure your text into different paragraphs. Each paragraph of text should go in between an opening **<p>** and a closing **</p>** tag as shown below in the example –

Example

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
<title>Paragraph Example</title>
</head>
<body>
<p>Here is a first paragraph of text.</p>
<p>Here is a second paragraph of text.</p>
<p>Here is a third paragraph of text.</p>
</body>
</html>
```

This will produce the following result:



Line Break Tag

Whenever you use the **
** element, anything following it starts from the next line. This tag is an example of an **empty** element, where you do not need opening and closing tags, as there is nothing to go in between them.

The **
** tag has a space between the characters **br** and the forward slash. If you omit this space, older browsers will have trouble rendering the line break, while if you miss the forward slash character and just use **
** it is not valid in XHTML.

Example

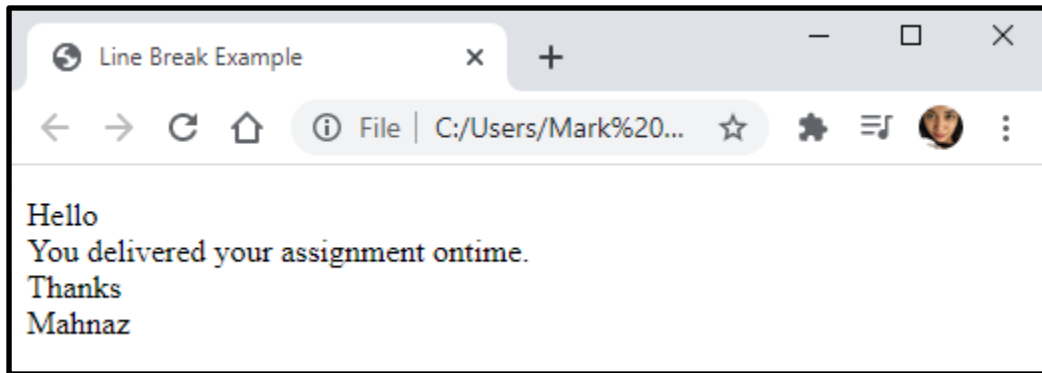
```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>

  <head>
    <title>Line Break Example</title>
  </head>

  <body>
    <p>Hello<br />
      You delivered your assignment ontime.<br />
      Thanks<br />
      Mahnaz</p>
  </body>

</html>
```

This will produce the following result –



Centering Content

You can use **<center>** tag to put any content in the center of the page or any table cell.

Example

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>

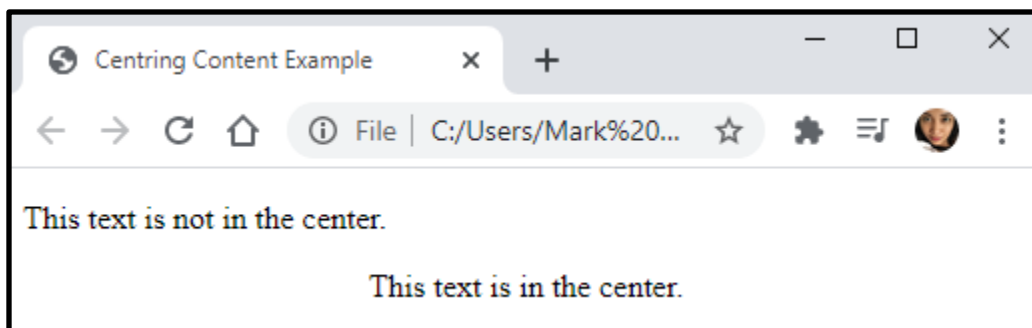
  <head>
    <title>Centring Content Example</title>
  </head>

  <body>
    <p>This text is not in the center.</p>

    <center>
      <p>This text is in the center.</p>
    </center>
  </body>

</html>
```

This will produce following result –



Horizontal Lines

Horizontal lines are used to visually break-up sections of a document. The `<hr>` tag creates a line from the current position in the document to the right margin and breaks the line accordingly.

For example, you may want to give a line between two paragraphs as in the given example below –

Example

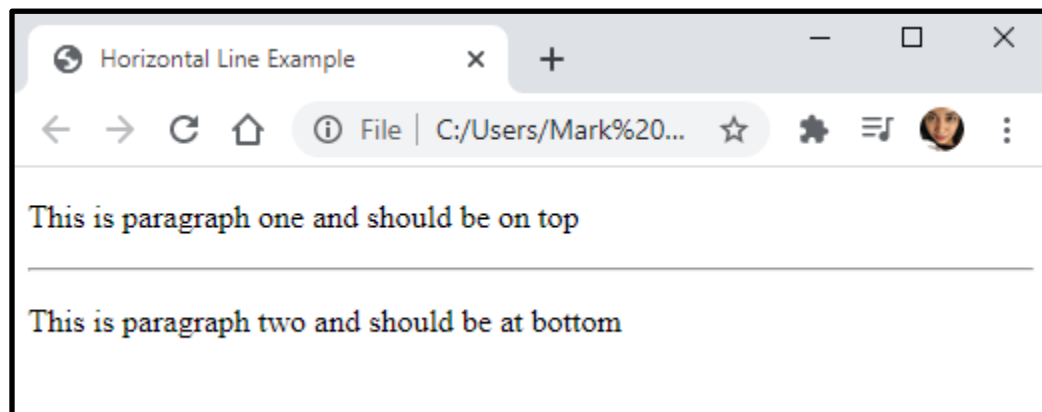
```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>

  <head>
    <title>Horizontal Line Example</title>
  </head>

  <body>
    <p>This is paragraph one and should be on top</p>
    <hr />
    <p>This is paragraph two and should be at bottom</p>
  </body>

</html>
```

This will produce the following result –



Again `<hr />` tag is an example of the **empty** element, where you do not need opening and closing tags, as there is nothing to go in between them.

The `<hr />` element has a space between the characters `hr` and the forward slash. If you omit this space, older browsers will have trouble rendering the horizontal line, while if you miss the forward slash character and just use `<hr>` it is not valid in XHTML.

Preserve Formatting

Sometimes, you want your text to follow the exact format of how it is written in the HTML document. In these cases, you can use the preformatted tag **<pre>**.

Any text between the opening **<pre>** tag and the closing **</pre>** tag will preserve the formatting of the source document.

Example

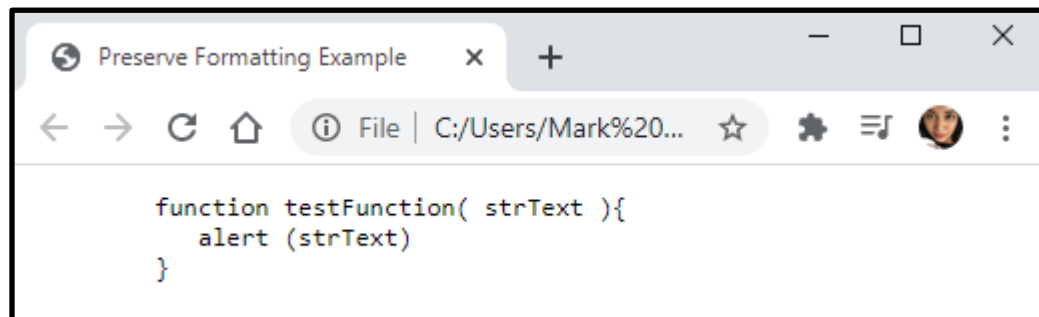
```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>

  <head>
    <title>Preserve Formatting Example</title>
  </head>

  <body>
    <pre>
      function testFunction( strText ){
        alert (strText)
      }
    </pre>
  </body>

</html>
```

This will produce the following result –



Try using the same code without keeping it inside **<pre>...</pre>** tags and see the result.

Nonbreaking Spaces

Suppose you want to use the phrase "12 Angry Men." Here, you would not want a browser to split the "12, Angry" and "Men" across two lines –

An example of this technique appears in the movie "12 Angry Men."

In cases, where you do not want the client browser to break text, you should use a nonbreaking space entity ** **; instead of a normal space. For example, when coding the "12 Angry Men" in a paragraph, you should use something similar to the following code –

```
<!DOCTYPE html>

<html>

  <head>

    <title>Nonbreaking Spaces Example</title>

  </head>

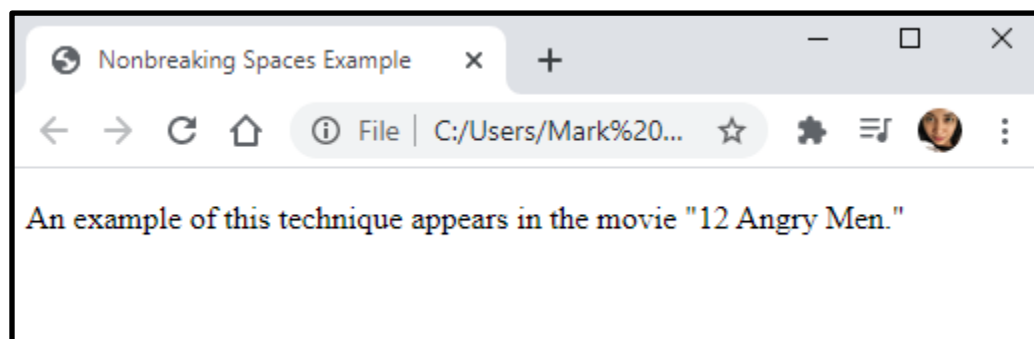
  <body>

    <p>An example of this technique appears in the movie "12&nbsp;Angry&nbsp;Men."</p>

  </body>

</html>
```

This will produce the following result –



CHAPTER 2.2: Elements

An **HTML element** is defined by a starting tag. If the element contains other content, it ends with a closing tag, where the element name is preceded by a forward slash as shown below with few tags –

| Start Tag | Content | End Tag |
|-----------|----------------------------|---------|
| <p> | This is paragraph content. | </p> |
| <h1> | This is heading content. | </h1> |
| <div> | This is division content. | </div> |
| | | |

So here <p>....</p> is an HTML element, <h1>...</h1> is another HTML element. There are some HTML elements which don't need to be closed, such as <img.../>, <hr /> and
 elements. These are known as **void elements**.

HTML documents consist of a tree of these elements and they specify how HTML documents should be built, and what kind of content should be placed in what part of an HTML document.

HTML Tag vs. Element

An HTML element is defined by a *starting tag*. If the element contains other content, it ends with a *closing tag*.

For example, <p> is starting tag of a paragraph and </p> is closing tag of the same paragraph but <p>This is paragraph</p> is a paragraph element.

Nested HTML Elements

It is very much allowed to keep one HTML element inside another HTML element –

Example

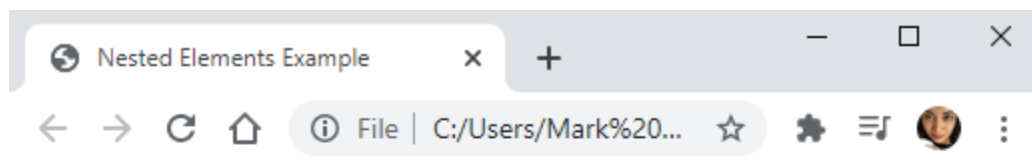
```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>

  <head>
    <title>Nested Elements Example</title>
  </head>

  <body>
    <h1>This is <i>italic</i> heading</h1>
    <p>This is <u>underlined</u> paragraph</p>
  </body>

</html>
```

This will display the following result –



This is *italic* heading

This is underlined paragraph

VIDEO TUTORIAL LINK

HTML – Basic Tags

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uMIjPKUXEEE&list=PLWPirh4EWFpFI-w62QiV62FOVHcXnynon&index=3>

HTML - Elements

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SHQjWmvfz_A

REFERENCES:

- https://www.tutorialspoint.com/html/html_basic_tags.htm
https://www.tutorialspoint.com/html/html_elements.htm