More on `<ARTICLE>` and `<SECTION>`

CAN AN `<ARTICLE>` CONTAIN A `<SECTION>`?

It may not be clear whether a `<section>` may contain one or several `<article>`elements or if an `<article>` may contain one or several `<section>` elements.

- The `<article>` element was designed for stand-alone parts of a document that could eventually be syndicated in RSS streams.
- `<section>` elements are used to cut a logical part into subparts.

> An **`<article>`** **may be cut into different** **`<section>`** **elements!**

Example of a blog post defined as a long `<article>`, that is in turn cut into smaller `<section>` elements:

```
<article id="id1">
  <section id="id1part1">
    <h2>Introduction</h2>
  </section>
  <section id="id1part2">
    <h2>My travel to India</h2>
  </section>
10.
  <section id="id1part3">
    <h2>Return to France</h2>
  </section>
</article>
```

The blog example from the previous part of the course, on the other hand uses a single `<section>` that contains several `<article>` elements.

Indeed, we can also have a `<section>` that regroups all blog posts per month, each one being an `<article>` element.

A <section> may be cut into different `<article>` elements, too!

CAN WE PUT A `<NAV>` IN AN `<ARTICLE>`?

Yes we can, in case you would like to propose some navigation links with each blog post, for example:

```
     <article>
       <header>
        <h1>Blog post title</h1>
         <p>Author : Michel</p>
       </header>
       <nav>
         <ul>
            <li><a href="...">Next post</a></li>
            <li><a href="...">Previous post</a></li>
10.         <li><a href="...">Contact author</a></li>
         </ul>
       </nav>
       <p>Content...</p>
       <footer>
         <p>Posted by Michel, the <time datetime="2012-02-02">February 2,
         2012</time> </p>
       </footer>
     </article>
```

In that case, the `<nav>` element proposes navigation links to the next or previous blog

post, as well as a link to contact the author of the blog post.

Notice also that we used in that example a `<footer>` element in the blog post.

WHAT ABOUT THE `<DIV>` ELEMENT ? IS IT STILL USEFUL ?

The new elements have been primarily designed for better structuring the code of HTML pages such as the ones generated by blog or CMS software, however do not forget that they add new semantics and will be taken into account by :

- Browsers natively or browsers' extensions, i.e. for automatically generating a table of contents, an outline view of the document, for applying default CSS rules to these elements, etc. See for example the HTML5 outliner (Chrome extension). More on that in the next section of the course.

- Screen readers that vocalize document content, seehttp://www.accessibleculture.org/articles/2011/04/html5-aria-2011/ for an interesting HTML5 blog post on this topic.

- Web crawlers, etc.

You can use `<div>` elements in all cases where the proposed structural elements do not fit your needs. For defining some content that should be styled, for example.

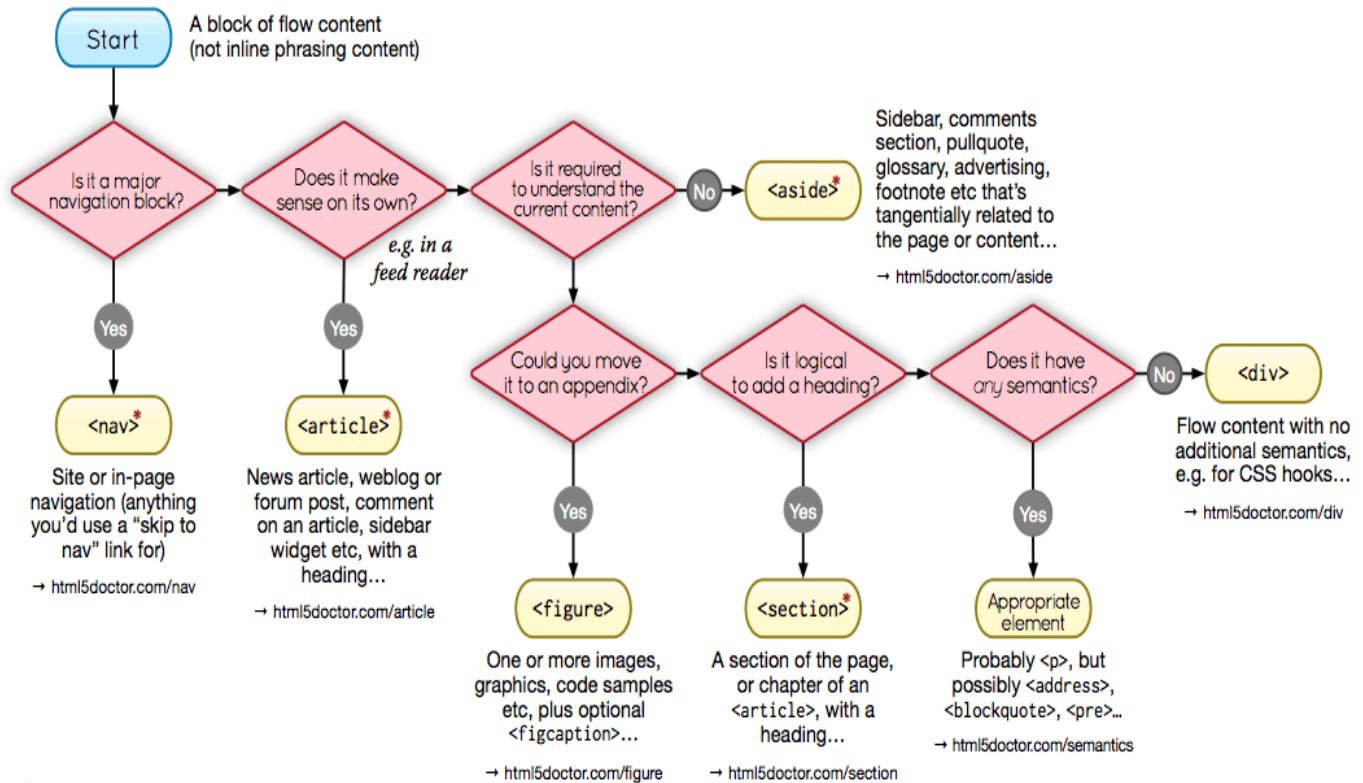This chart from the HTML5 Doctor Web site may help you decide whether to use a `<div>`or not:

html5 Doctor — HTML5 Element Flowchart

Sectioning content elements and friends

By @riddle & @boblet
www.html5doctor.com

Start

A block of flow content
(not inline phrasing content)

Is it a major navigation block?

→ Yes

<nav>*

Site or in-page navigation (anything you'd use a "skip to nav" link for)

→ html5doctor.com/nav

Does it make sense on its own?

e.g. in a feed reader

→ Yes

<article>*

News article, weblog or forum post, comment on an article, sidebar widget etc, with a heading…

→ html5doctor.com/article

Is it required to understand the current content?

→ No → **<aside>***

Sidebar, comments section, pullquote, glossary, advertising, footnote etc that's tangentially related to the page or content…

→ html5doctor.com/aside

Could you move it to an appendix?

→ Yes

<figure>

One or more images, graphics, code samples etc, plus optional <figcaption>…

→ html5doctor.com/figure

Is it logical to add a heading?

→ Yes

<section>*

A section of the page, or chapter of an <article>, with a heading…

→ html5doctor.com/section

Does it have any semantics?

→ No → **<div>**

Flow content with no additional semantics, e.g. for CSS hooks…

→ html5doctor.com/div

→ Yes

Appropriate element

Probably <p>, but possibly <address>, <blockquote>, <pre>…

→ html5doctor.com/semantics

*** Sectioning content element**
These four elements (and their headings) are used by HTML5's outlining algorithm to make the document's outline
→ html5doctor.com/outline

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For more information:
www.html5doctor.com/semantics