Let’s take a look at a few different types of elements. We’ve seen <h1>, <h2>, and <p> elements. Let’s look at a few more.

There are 3 common elements you might see inside of the body. They are common parent elements for all other elements. They are the <header>, <main>, and <footer>. They are the child elements of <body>. When you have child elements its good practice to indent them inside the parent element. Indenting each child element helps the HTML code be more readable.

The <header> element is different from the <head> element. The <header> element *will* show up on the browser window. This is where elements at the top of the web page will be placed. Everything in the <header> will remain the same from one web page to another. Things like a company logo or a web menu would be items that would belong in the <header>

The <main> element will hold web page content that is unique to each page.

And the <footer> element will hold elements that will show up at the bottom of every page of the website. Things like copyright or contact info or maybe more links. Like the <header> element, the <footer> elements will remain the same from one web page to another.

A common child element inside the <header> is the <nav> element. The <nav> element is used to hold the menu. It defines a set of navigation links. It can hold different types of elements, but it will usually hold <a> elements.

An <a> element defines a hyperlink. Meaning when the user clicks on the text or content between the <a> tags, it will take them somewhere else. Additional information is needed inside the opening tag to specify where to send the user once they click the content of the <a> element. Additional information inside an opening tag is called an attribute. Attributes usually come in name/value pairs, with the name followed by an equal sign and then the value in quotes. This is an attribute with the name of href and the value in quotes of the URL or web address of where the link will take the user. Href stands for hypertext reference. Notice that tags and attribute names are lowercase. HTML is not case sensitive but it’s good practice to leave them lowercase. These <a> elements are nested inside the <nav> element and so they are the children of the <nav>.

Here’s an img or image element. This is one, of only a few elements, that doesn’t have an open and closing tag. That’s because there is no content that is needed between tags. All the information to show the image is handled by the attributes. This image element has two attributes the src or source attribute and the alt or alternative text attribute. The src attribute has the value of the path of where the image is located along with the name of the image. The alt attribute shows alternative text that will be used by screen readers or if the image is not available. The name part of the name value pairs are src and alt. The values are in the quotes following the equal sign.

Here is an html file as you’d see it in a code editor. Some editors will color coordinate different types of code. This is showing the Visual Studio Code editor. The tags are a dark red and the attribute names a bright red with the values of those attributes as blue. Take a look at the html element. It has an attribute called lang that indicates the language that will be used for the content of html. In this case it is English. We see that our HTML skeleton has meta elements in the head section (we’ll learn more about these later).

This is what our html page would look like after the browser renders or interprets the code. It’s interesting to note that the <h1> element and <a> element look very different. The <h1> is large and bold and the <a> link is smaller and underlined with blue or purple text depending on if the link has been visited or not. The way these elements look after being rendered is not the job of HTML that is the job of CSS. HTML handles the structure of the page and CSS handles how it is presented or how it looks. The reason the h1 is big and bold and the link is smaller, colored, and underlined is because our browser has some internal default CSS that is being applied to different types of elements. For example, most browsers have default CSS for h1 elements of being bigger and bolder than other text. We will learn more about CSS later and how we can override the internal browser CSS defaults to change things to look a certain way. But remember that is not the job of HTML. HTML is just about structure—knowing what element to use for what content and how to organize that on our page. For HTML the <h1> element simply means that it is the main heading of the page and to see its content as such. This is referred to as semantics. Meaning you can tell what type of content it is because of the element used. Semantic tags describe the content you are adding to the page. An <h1> will be a main heading, an <a> tag will be a link, an <img> tag will display an image, etc.