

SCS 1311 – Internet and Web Technologies

HTML

Gayani Rupasinghe
University of Colombo School of Computing
gsr@ucsc.cmb.ac.lk

What is HTML?

- HTML, which stands for **Hypertext Markup Language**, is the standard language used for creating and designing the structure of a web page.
- It allows to organize content on the website, define its structure, and establish the relationships between different elements.
- HTML uses "markup" to annotate text, images, and other content for display in a Web browser.

What is HTML Cont.

How markup works

- Tags and elements: Markup uses tags enclosed in angle brackets (< >). Together with the content, they form elements.
- Attributes: Tags can include attributes that provide extra information.
- HTML consists of a series of **elements**, which can be used to **enclose, wrap, or mark up** different parts of content to to define its structure and meaning.

Basic HTML Document Structure

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
  <head>
    <title>My First Page</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    <h1>Hello, world!</h1>
    <p>This is my first web page.</p>
  </body>
</html>
```

Roles of Each Section

- `<!DOCTYPE html>` → HTML5
 - Declares the document type
 - Tells the browser this page uses HTML5 (the current standard)
 - Without it, browsers may fall back to “quirks mode,” which can cause inconsistent rendering
- `<html>` → Root element
 - The container for the entire HTML document
 - Everything (head + body) must be inside `<html> ..</html>`
 - Can include a lang attribute (recommended)

Roles of Each Section cont.

- `<head>` → Not visible, holds metadata
 - Contains information ***about*** the page, not content shown directly.
 - Includes `<title>`, `<meta>` tags
 - Links to CSS files
 - Links to fonts/icons
 - Links to JavaScript (optional)

Roles of Each Section cont.

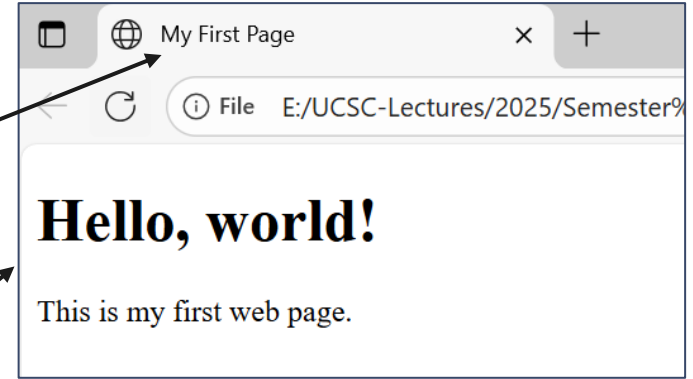
- `<body>` → Everything visible on the page
 - Holds all the content that users see in the browser window.
 - Includes Headings, Paragraphs, Images, Links, Lists, Tables, Forms, Sections (`<header>`, `<nav>`, `<main>`, etc.), Multimedia (video, audio)

Web Browser Output

```

      Head
section { <!DOCTYPE html>
          <html>
            <head>
              <title>My First Page</title>
            </head>
            <body>
              <h1>Hello, world!</h1>
              <p>This is my first web page.</p>
            </body>
          </html>
      Body
section {

```



HTML Comments

- Comments are notes inside HTML code
- Browsers do not display them
- Useful for explanations, reminders, disabling code, and grouping sections

```
<!-- This is a comment -->
```

HTML Comments

Example -

```
<body>  
  <!-- Main heading of the page -->  
  <h1>Welcome</h1>  
</body>
```

What Are HTML Tags?

- Tags are special keywords wrapped in angle brackets:
 - `<p>`, ``, `<h1>`
- Tags tell the browser **how to interpret** the content
- They are **case-insensitive**, but use lowercase in modern HTML
- Most tags come in pairs:
 - Opening tag: `<p>`
 - Closing tag: `</p>`
- Some tags are self-closing (void elements), eg. `
`

Syntax of a Tag

- A basic tag looks like,

```
<tagname>content</tagname>
```

Example -

```
<h1>Hello</h1>
```

```
<p>This is a paragraph.</p>
```

What is an HTML Element?

- An element includes,
 - Opening tag
 - Content
 - Closing tag
- Example -

```
<p>Hello World</p>
```

Basic Types of Elements

1. Paired Elements (normal elements)

`<p>text</p>`

`<h1>Heading</h1>`

2. Void Elements (empty elements)

- No closing tag
- No content

`
` `<hr>` `` `<meta>` `<input>`

Nesting Elements

- Elements can be nested/can go inside each other

```
<p>This is <strong>important</strong>  
text.</p>
```

```
<p>This is <strong>important</p></strong> ✖
```

What Are Attributes?

- Attributes give extra information about an element

`attribute="value"`

Example -

```

```


Common Attributes

Attribute	Used For	Example
src	image/video source	<pre></pre>
width	Width of element	
height	Height of element	
alt	image description	

Common Attributes

Attribute	Used For	Example
href	link target	<code>Go to Example</code>
type	type of input	<code><input type="password"></code>
value	input value	<code><input type="text" value="Hello"></code>

Attribute Types

1. Global Attributes

- Can be applied to any HTML element
- Provide universal functionality like identification, styling, or accessibility

2. Local (Element-Specific) Attributes

- Attributes that only apply to certain elements
- Control behavior unique to that element type

Attribute Types

3. Boolean Attributes

- Attributes that are either present or absent and no value needed.
- Switch a feature on/off

Attribute Types

```
<body>
  <!-- Global attributes: id, class, title -->
  <p id="intro" class="highlight" title="Extra info">Sample text</p>

  <!-- Local attributes: src, alt, width, height (specific to <img>) -->
  

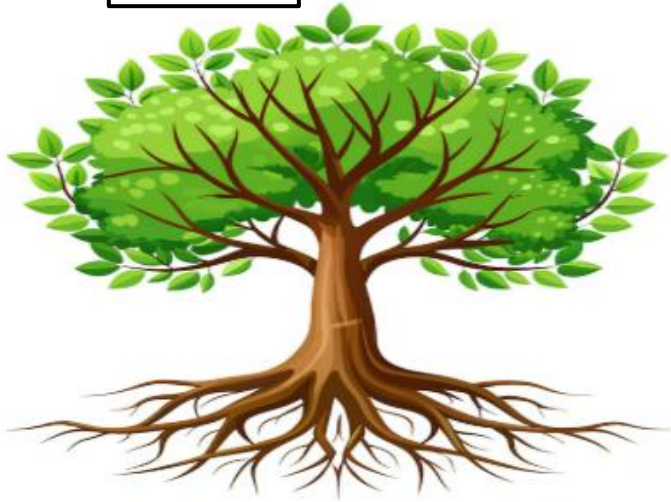
  <!-- Boolean attributes: disabled, required, autofocus -->
  <form>
    <input type="email" placeholder="Enter email" required>
    <input type="text" value="Disabled field" disabled>
    <input type="text" placeholder="Focused field" autofocus>
    <button type="submit">Submit</button>
  </form>

</body>
```

Attribute Types

Sample text

Extra Info



Enter email

Disabled field

Focused field

Submit



Please fill out this field.

Text & Headings

- HTML provides 6 levels of headings
- `<h1>` is the most important heading
- `<h6>` is the least important
- Headings **define content hierarchy, not size**
- Search engines use headings to understand structure

`<h1>Main Title</h1>`

`<h2>Section Title</h2>`

`<h3>Subsection Title</h3>`

Main Title

Section Title

Subsection Title

Paragraph

- `<p>` defines a block of text
- Browsers add automatic spacing
- Only for meaningful paragraphs, not layout

`<p>First paragraph.</p>`

`<p>Second paragraph.</p>`

First paragraph.

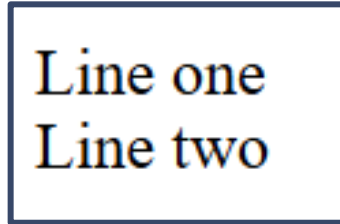
Second paragraph.

Line Breaks and Horizontal Rules

 - Line Break

- Inserts a single line break
- Use only for small line breaks (poetry, addresses)

<p>Line one
Line two</p>



Line one
Line two

Line Breaks and Horizontal Rules

`<hr>` - Thematic Break

- Creates a horizontal rule (line) that represents a thematic division in content

```
<h2>Introduction</h2>
```

```
<p>This is the opening section.</p>
```

```
<hr>
```

```
<h2>Conclusion</h2>
```

```
<p>This is the closing section.</p>
```

Introduction

This is the opening section.

Conclusion

This is the closing section.

Inline Text Formatting (Semantic Tags)

- Semantic inline elements:
 - `` – strong importance
 - `` – emphasis
 - `<u>` – underline
 - `<mark>` – highlight
 - `<small>` – side text / fine print
 - `<sub>` – subscript
 - `<sup>` – superscript

Inline Text Formatting (Semantic Tags)

`<p>This is important
information.</p>`

`<p><u>Water formula</u>: H₂O</p>`

`<p>4² = 16</p>`

`<p>This is <mark>highlighted</mark>
text.</p>`

`<p><small>Note: This is additional fine
print.</small></p>`

Inline Text Formatting (Semantic Tags)

This is **important** information.

Water formula: H₂O

$$4^2 = 16$$

This is **highlighted** text.

Note: This is additional fine print.

Non-Semantic Inline Elements

- `` — a generic inline container
- Used when,
 - You need to select part of text
 - The text has no special meaning

```
<p>This is <span class="highlight">special</span>  
text.</p>
```

Block vs Inline (Text Context)

- Block-level elements,
 - Start on a new line
 - Take full width by default
 - Structure the page layout
- Inline elements,
 - Do not start on a new line
 - Take only the space needed
 - Are used inside text content

Thank You!