Understanding Directives

In this lecture, we are going to start learning about Directives.

You can think of them as **Custom Attributes for transforming content**.

Browsers have various attributes for affecting the behaviour of an element. For example, the target attribute on an anchor element can change how a link is opened in the browser.

Browsers defined dozens of attributes to alter an elements behaviour. In some cases, we may want to create **custom attributes instead of creating an entire components.** Angular gives us the power through a feature called **Directives**.

We can apply Directives to native HTML elements or Custom components.

They're more flexible than regular attributes.

I provide a link to an official list of directives defined by Angular:
https://v17.angular.io/api?type=directive

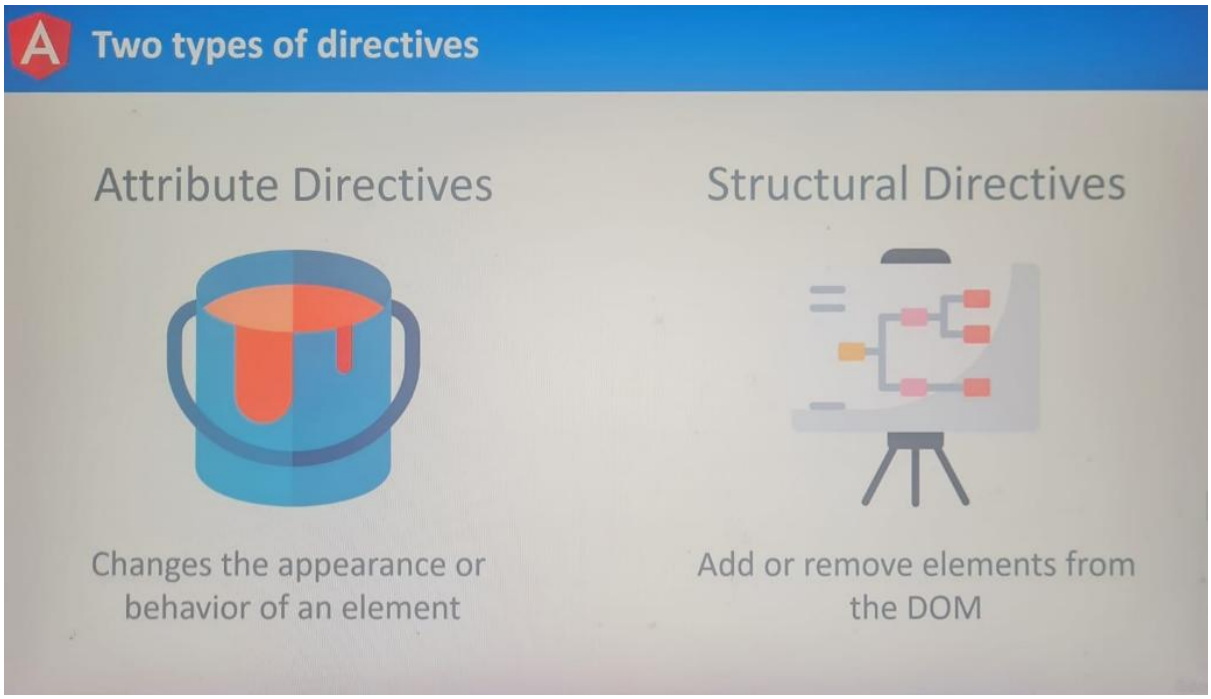
https://angular.dev/api?type=directive

We are going to put our focus on the **directives** defined under the **common package.**

The **other directives** will be **explored in other sections of the course**.

As we discussed before, the **common package** is **imported through the BrowserModule**.

We don't have to take additional steps to start using these directives.



There are two types of **Directives**:

1. **Attribute Directives**
2. **Structural Directives**

Both types of directives have different syntax rules and behaviours.

Attribute Directives – focus on changing the appearance or behaviour of an element.

For example, if we want to dynamically add styles to an element, this type of directive would be considered an attribute directive.

Structural Directives – can add or remove elements in the document. They're focused on changing the layout of the DOM.

If this sees confusing, that's perfectly all right.