

Difference between innerHTML and textContent

innerHTML vs textContent

♦ **innerHTML**

- Reads **or writes** **HTML**
- Interprets tags
- Can change structure of the page
- **Security risk** if user input is used (XSS)

Example

```
element.innerHTML = "<strong>Hello</strong>" ;
```

👉 Displays **bold Hello**

♦ **textContent**

- Reads **or writes** **plain text only**
- HTML tags are treated as text
- Safer for user input
- Does **not** affect HTML structure

Example

```
element.textContent = "<strong>Hello</strong>" ;
```

👉 Displays: **Hello**

vs Side-by-Side Comparison

Feature	innerHTML	textContent
	ML	nt
Handles HTML tags	✓ Yes	✗ No
Reads HTML markup	✓	✗
Writes HTML	✓	✗
Safer for user input	✗	✓
Can inject elements	✓	✗
Faster	✗	✓

🔥 When to Use Which

✓ Use **textContent** when:

- Displaying **user input**
- Showing **data, scores, messages**
- Teaching beginners
- Security matters

```
output.textContent = userName;
```

✓ Use **innerHTML** when:

- You **need HTML**
- Dynamically creating elements
- Using **
, **, lists, etc.

```
output.innerHTML = "<p><strong>Total:</strong> 5</p>";
```



Simple Rule for Students

If you don't need HTML → use `textContent`

If you need HTML → use `innerHTML`