

## 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 **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: `<strong>Hello</strong>`

---

## Side-by-Side Comparison

Feature	innerHTML	textContent
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 `<br>`, `<strong>`, 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`