

Using comments in our Code

[A presentation screen is shown. The text “Comments” is shown.]

Instructor: Let's talk about using comments in our HTML and CSS. Comments are any text you want to add to your code, but you don't want the browser to interpret it. Comments won't show up on the web page so your user won't see them. Comments can be used as notes for yourself, as a developer or for other developers who may read your code later. Comments are a great way to clarify your code, so it's easier to understand and make it easier to follow or find parts of your code later. Comments can also be used to block out code during development. Symbols are used to denote a comment.

[The slide changes to show the symbols for comments. The text shows “<!-- -->” and “/ */”]*

Then when the browser is processing the code it knows to ignore anything within these symbols. The symbols are different for HTML and CSS comments. In HTML, the symbol used to note that you are starting a comment is the opening angle bracket, followed by an exclamation mark and two dashes. Then you type whatever you want for the comment, and then end the comment with two dashes and the closing angle bracket.

[The slide changes. The text “<!-- the comment text here -->” is shown.]

Perhaps I wanted to make a comment explaining why I had two divs with the class banner. I could make a comment above the code explaining that. Or if I wanted to see my page with just one of the divs to see how it looks, I could comment out the second div and then easily bring the code back later if I choose by removing the beginning and ending comments symbols.

[An image of a commented out div element is shown.]

CSS comments use different opening and closing symbols. To open a comment in CSS, use the slash and asterisks and end the comment with an asterisk and slash.

[The slide changes. Text saying “/ comment text here */” is shown.]*

Here comments are used to denote where different parts of the page's CSS are located in the file. This can help the developer quickly get to the CSS that they're looking for.

[An image showing a CSS file is shown. Above selectors is a comment describing what they are selecting.]

Comments can also be placed directly after a single line of CSS. This one is explaining one declaration.

[The image changes to show the CSS file again, this time with a line highlighted. The highlighted line says “display: grid; / using grid to layout the links horizontally */”]*

Using comments is a great way to clarify your code for the developer.

[End of video]