# Common HTML Elements

Elements that are self-closing do not require an end tag

## Core Structural Elements

**<!DOCTYPE html>  
Meaning:** Defines the rules that the browser should use when parsing/interpreting your document

**<html>  
Void element:** No **Meaning:** The root element of a web page. Everything except the doctype definition will be contained within this

**<head>  
Void element:** No  
**Meaning:** Contains metadata and external resources for the page, such as the title and CSS includes

**<body>  
Void element:** No  
**Meaning:** This is where all of the visible content for the document is located

## Elements That Belong in the Head

**<title>  
Void element:** No  
**Meaning:** The title of the document. This is displayed in the top bar of the browser

**<link>  
Void element:** No  
**Meaning:** Used to include external resources such as stylesheets, or an icon for the site

**<style>  
Void element:** No  
**Meaning:** Contains CSS styles to be used on the document. This is usually discouraged because these styles can only apply to the page where it is defined.

**<meta>  
Void element:** Yes  
**Meaning:** Non-visible information about the page for use by browsers or search engines

## Block Elements (display: block;)

**<h1>…<h6>**   
**Void element:** No   
**Meaning:** Heading Elements. Used to indicate hierarchical titles of sections within a document. A page should typically only contain one <h1> element, with the only exception being if you have multiple <articles> defined, each can have its own <h1>

**<p>**  
**Void element:** No  
**Meaning:** Paragraph. A block of text

**<div>**  
**Void element:** No  
**Meaning:** A generic block for the purpose of layout/styling. It has no semantic meaning

**<hr />**   
**Void element:** Yes  
**Meaning:** Horizontal rule (a line across the page)

**<ul>**  
**Void element:** No  
**Meaning:** Unordered list. A bulleted list of items. disc is the default bullet type  
*Related CSS:* list-style-type: circle | disc | square | none

**<ol>**   
**Void element:** No  
**Meaning:** Ordered list. A numbered/lettered list of items. decimal is the default ordering type  
*Related CSS:* list-style-type: decimal | lower-alpha | upper-alpha | lower-roman | upper-roman | none (there are others but these are the main ones you would use)

**<li>  
Void element:** No  
**Meaning:** A list item. Must be a child element of either <ul> or <ol>

**<fieldset>**  
**Void element:** No  
**Meaning:** A container for a group of input elements. Should also have a <legend> sub-element which specifies the title of the group of input elements

## Inline Elements (display: inline;)

These elements only take up as much space as their content. Left/Right Margin/Padding are respected, top and bottom are not.

**<br />**   
**Void element:** Yes  
**Meaning:** Line break.

**<strong>   
Void element:** No  
**Meaning:** The contained text has significant meaning

**<em>  
Void element:** No  
**Meaning:** Italic text. Semantically means that you are placing emphasis on the contained text

**<a>**  
**Void element:** No  
**Meaning:** Anchor. Used to define a link to another page, or a linkable location within a page  
*Examples:*Simple HyperLink - <a href="http://www.oit.edu">Oregon Tech Website</a>  
Creating a linkable location in a page <a name="Section2">This is different place on the page</a>  
Link to a location in the current page - <a href="#Section2">Go to different place on the page</a>

**<img />**  
**Void element:** Yes  
**Meaning:** Image. Alt should always be specified for screen readers and providing search engines with extra information about the image  
*Example:*  
<img src="http://www.oit.edu/img/ot-logo.png" alt="Oregon Tech Logo" />

**<span>**  
**Void element:** No  
**Meaning:** A generic inline element for the purpose of styling inline content such as text. It has no semantic meaning  
Example: <p>I have a <span class="redDog">dog</span> named patches</p>

## HTML5 Semantic Elements

These elements each have a special semantic meaning, but render the same as a div by default

**<header>  
Void element:** No  
**Meaning:** A container for headings and introductory content for a document or container

**<footer>**  
**Void element:** No  
**Meaning:** A container for a footer for a document or container

**<main>**  
**Void element:** No  
**Meaning:** The primary content of a document. There should only be one of these on a page

**<nav>**  
**Void element:** No  
**Meaning:** Contains navigation links related to the document/container

**<aside>**  
**Void element:** No  
**Meaning:** Information that is related to the content of the page, for things such as related links

**<article>**  
**Void element:** No  
**Meaning:** A self-contained piece of content within the document, such as a news article.

**<section>**  
**Void element:** No  
**Meaning:** Only slightly more meaningful than a div, it defines a section of the document. A section may have its own header, footer

**<dialog>**  
**Void element:** No  
**Meaning:** A dialog box that is displayed to the user. The default style is the same as a div, so you must style and implement the behavior for this yourself.

## Form Elements

**<form>  
Void element:** No  
**Meaning:** A form that can be submitted to a web server

**<input type="text" />  
Void element:** Yes  
**Meaning:** Text Box for entering text on a form

**<input type="radio" />**  
**Void element:** Yes  
**Meaning:** Radio Button

**<input type="checkbox" />**  
**Void element:** Yes  
**Meaning:** Checkbox

**<input type="password" />**  
**Void element:** Yes  
**Meaning:** Password Text Box

**<textarea>**  
**Void element:** No  
**Meaning:** Multiline Text Box

**<select>**  
**Void element:** No  
**Meaning:** Dropdown List or List Box

**<option>**  
**Void element:** No  
**Meaning:** A single item within a <select> or <datalist> control  
**Example:**  
<select>  
<option value="OR">Oregon</option>  
<option value="WA">Washington</option>  
<option value="CA">California</option>  
</select>

**<label>**  
**Void element:** No  
**Meaning:** A label for an input control. The "for" attribute links the label to a control by its "id" attribute  
**Usage:**  
<label for="FirstName">First Name</label>  
<input type="text" id="FirstName" />

## Other Elements of Interest

**<script>  
Void element:** No  
**Meaning:** Includes Javascript onto a page. This one is unique in that it is valid in both the <head> and <body>