

What about the <MAIN> element that is in the HTML5 specification?

If you do use <nav> / <header> / <footer> etc. to structure your document, you can also use <main> to identify the main content of the document. Doing so provides a navigable document structure for assistive technology users as well as styling hooks for devs.

We have seen the different sectioning elements of HTML5, why didn't we talk about the <main> element earlier in this part of the course ? Shouldn't <main>...</main> be used in place of <div class="main">...</div>?

A document has been written by the HTML5 working group, which details the different use-cases for this element: <http://www.w3.org/html/wg/wiki/User:Sfaulkne/main-usecases#Introduction>

The <main> element is supported by major browsers since 2013.

This element is subject to some constraints:

- There must not be more than one <main> element in a document,
- It must not be a descendent of an <article>, <aside>, <footer>, <header>, or <nav> element.

And finally here are some examples (from the HTML5 specification) that mix the <main> element with the other sectioning elements already seen in the course:

1. <!-- other content -->
2. <main
3. <h1>Skateboards</h1>
4. <p>The skateboard is the way cool kids get around</p>
5. <article>
6. <h2>Longboards</h2>
7. <p>Longboards are a type of skateboard with a longer
8. wheelbase and larger, softer wheels.</p>
9. <p></p>

10. <p></p>
11. </article>
12. <article>
13. <h2>Electric Skateboards</h2>
14. <p>These no longer require the propelling of the skateboard
15. by means of the feet; rather an electric motor propels the board,
16. fed by an electric battery.</p>
17. <p></p>
18. <p></p>
19. </article>
20. </main>
21. <!-- other content -->

Here is another example (also from the specification). In this example the <main> element contains a <nav> element consisting of links to subsections of the main content:

1. <!DOCTYPE html>
2. <html>
3. <head>
4. <title>Graduation Ceremony Summer 2022</title>
5. </head>
6. <body>
7. <header>The Lawson Academy:
8. <nav>
9. <h2>Click these links to navigate...</h2>
10.
11. Courses
12.
13.
14.
15. </nav>
16. </header>
17. <main>
18. <h1>Graduation</h1>
19. <nav>
20. <h2>Please choose:</h2>
21.
22. Ceremony
23. Graduates
24. Awards

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25. </ul>
26. </nav>
27. <h2"ceremony"Ceremony</h2>
28. <p>Opening Procession</p>
29. <p>Speech by Valedictorian</p>
30. <p>Speech by Class President</p>
31. <p>Presentation of Diplomas</p>
32. <p>Closing Speech by Headmaster</p>
33. <h2"graduates"Graduates</h2>
34. <ul>
35. <li>Eileen Williams</li>
36. <li>Andy Maseyk</li>
37. <li>Blanca Sainz Garcia</li>
38. <li>Clara Faulkner</li>
39. <li>Gez Lemon</li>
40. <li>Eloisa Faulkner</li>
41. </ul>
42. <h2"awards"Awards</h2>
43. <ul>
44. <li>Clara Faulkner</li>
45. <li>Eloisa Faulkner</li>
46. <li>Blanca Sainz Garcia</li>
47. </ul>
48. </main>
49. <footer> Copyright 2012 B.lawson</footer>
50. </body>
51. </html>
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External resources:

Links

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