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Text Formatting

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Overview

HTML has several text definition and formatting elements. These focus on stylistic choices, such as *italic* and **bold**.

These HTML text elements were designed to display special types of text:

- - Bold text
- - Important text
- <i> - Italic text
- - Emphasized text
- <mark> - Marked text
- <small> - Smaller text
- - Deleted text
- <ins> - Inserted text
- <sub> - Subscript text
- <sup> - Superscript text

Bold and Strong

The element lets us define text to be bold without any extra importance.

```
<b>This text is bold</b>
```

The element lets us define text to be bold with extra importance.

```
<strong>This text is bold and important!</strong>
```

Generally, browsers will format as - the two are more or less functionally interchangeable.

However, it is good practice to use over as 'strong' semantically makes more sense than the letter 'b'.

Italic and Emphasis

The <i> element defines a part of text in "an alternate voice or mood". The content inside is typically displayed in *italics*. The <i> tag is often used to indicate a technical term, a phrase from another language, a thought, etc.

```
<i>This text is italic</i>
```

The element defines emphasized text. The content inside is typically displayed in italic. A screen reader will pronounce the words in with an emphasis, using verbal stress.

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```
<em>This text is in italics and emphasised!</em>
```

Generally, browsers will format `` as `<i>` - the two are more or less functionally interchangeable.

<small>

The `<small>` element will define smaller text within the same font used for standard text within the Web page.

```
<small>This is small text.</small>
```

<mark>

The `<mark>` element defines text that should be marked or highlighted, which usually manifests as yellow highlighting:

```
<p>This is <mark>marked</mark>text</p>
```

<s> and

The `<s>` element will render the text in strikethrough format (i.e. `example`):

```
<s>This is text that has been redacted</s>
```

The `` element defines text that has been deleted from a document.

```
<p>My favourite color is <del>blue</del> red.</p>
```

Generally, browsers will format `` as `<s>` - the two are more or less functionally interchangeable.

Underline and <ins>

The `<u>` element defines underlined text:

```
<u>This is a one-line whip!</u>
```

The `<ins>` element defines text that has been inserted into a document.

```
<p>My favourite color is <del>blue</del> <ins>red</ins>.</p>
```

Generally, browsers will format `<ins>` as `<u>` - the two are more or less functionally interchangeable.

Subscript and superscript

The `<sub>` - element defines ^{subscript} text. Subscript text appears half a character below the normal line, and is sometimes rendered in a smaller font:

```
<p>This is <sub>subscripted</sub> text.</p>
```

The `<sup>` element defines ^{superscript} text. Superscript text appears half a character above the normal line, and is sometimes rendered in a smaller font:

```
<p>This is <sup>superscripted</sup> text.</p>
```

This is just some of the text formatting properties that we have, below is a more full list of the different properties:

Tag	Description
<acronym>	Use <abbr> instead.Defines an acronym
<abbr>	Defines an abbreviation or an acronym

Tag	Description
<address>	Defines contact information for the author/owner of a document/article
	Defines bold text
<bdi>	Isolates a part of text that might be formatted in a different direction from other text outside it
<bdo>	Overrides the current text direction
<blockquote>	Defines a section that is quoted from another source
<cite>	Defines the title of a work
<code>	Defines a piece of computer code
	Defines text that has been deleted from a document
<dfn>	Specifies a term that is going to be defined within the content
	Defines emphasized text
<i>	Defines a part of text in an alternate voice or mood
<ins>	Defines a text that has been inserted into a document
<kbd>	Defines keyboard input
<mark>	Defines marked/highlighted text
<meter>	Defines a scalar measurement within a known range (a gauge)
<pre>	Defines preformatted text
<progress>	Represents the progress of a task
<q>	Defines a short quotation
<rp>	Defines what to show in browsers that do not support ruby annotations
<rt>	Defines an explanation/pronunciation of characters (for East Asian typography)
<ruby>	Defines a ruby annotation (for East Asian typography)
<s>	Defines text that is no longer correct
<samp>	Defines sample output from a computer program
<small>	Defines smaller text
<strike>	Not supported in HTML5. Use or <s> instead. Defines strikethrough text
	Defines important text

Tag	Description
<sub>	Defines subscripted text
<sup>	Defines superscripted text
<template>	Defines a container for content that should be hidden when the
<time>	Defines a specific time (or datetime)
<u>	Defines some text that is unarticulated and styled differently from normal text
<var>	Defines a variable
<wbr>	Defines a possible line-break

Tutorial

There is no tutorial for this module.

Exercises

Within the text of a HTML document, use textual formatting to display the below with the appropriate style:

- This is bold text
- *This is italic text*
- ~~Scratch this~~

▼ Solution

```
<html>
  <body>
    <p><strong>This is bold text</strong></p>
    <p><em>This is italic text</em></p>
    <p><del>Scratch this</del></p>
  </body>
</html>
```