

HTML Introduction

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What is HTML?

HTML is the standard markup language for creating Web pages.

- HTML stands for Hyper Text Markup Language
- HTML describes the structure of a Web page
- HTML consists of a series of elements
- HTML elements tell the browser how to display the content
- HTML elements are represented by tags
- HTML tags label pieces of content such as "heading", "paragraph", "table", and so on
- Browsers do not display the HTML tags, but use them to render the content of the page

A Simple HTML Document

Example

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
<title>Page Title</title>
</head>
<body>

<h1>My First Heading</h1>
<p>My first paragraph.</p>
```

```
</body>  
</html>
```

Try it Yourself »

Example Explained

- The `<!DOCTYPE html>` declaration defines this document to be HTML5
- The `<html>` element is the root element of an HTML page
- The `<head>` element contains meta information about the document
- The `<title>` element specifies a title for the document
- The `<body>` element contains the visible page content
- The `<h1>` element defines a large heading
- The `<p>` element defines a paragraph

HTML Tags

HTML tags are element names surrounded by angle brackets:

```
<tagname>content goes here...</tagname>
```

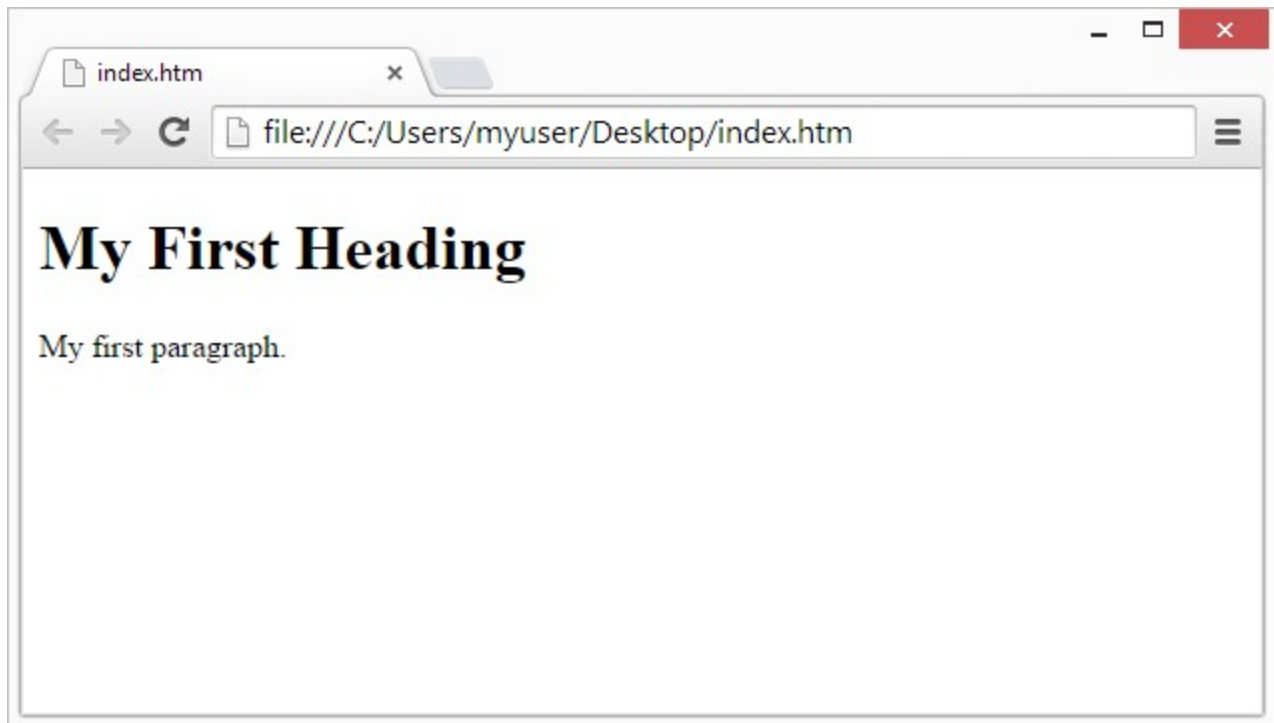
- HTML tags normally come **in pairs** like `<p>` and `</p>`
- The first tag in a pair is the **start tag**, the second tag is the **end tag**
- The end tag is written like the start tag, but with a **forward slash** inserted before the tag name

Tip: The start tag is also called the **opening tag**, and the end tag the **closing tag**.

Web Browsers

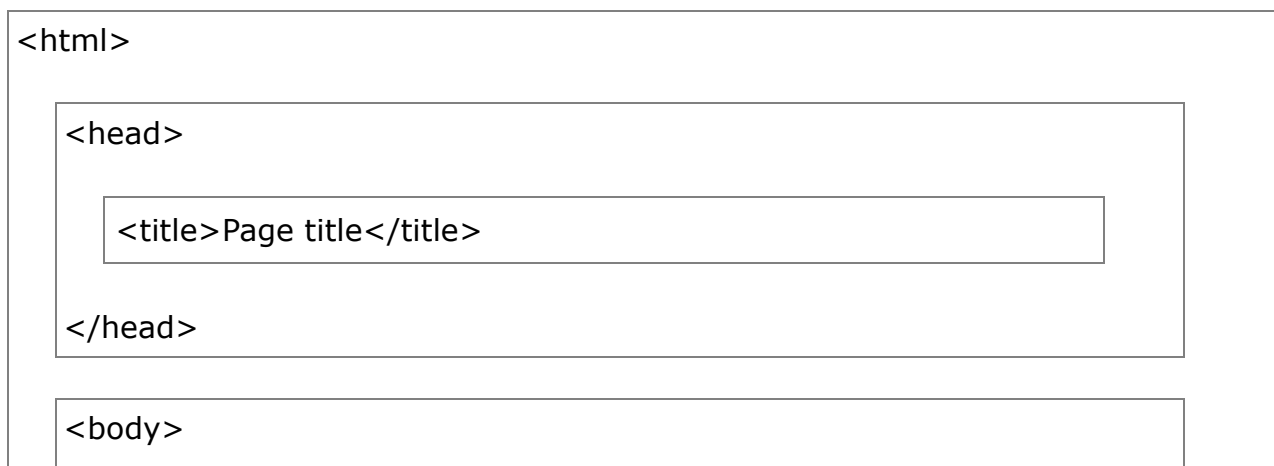
The purpose of a web browser (Chrome, Edge, Firefox, Safari) is to read HTML documents and display them.

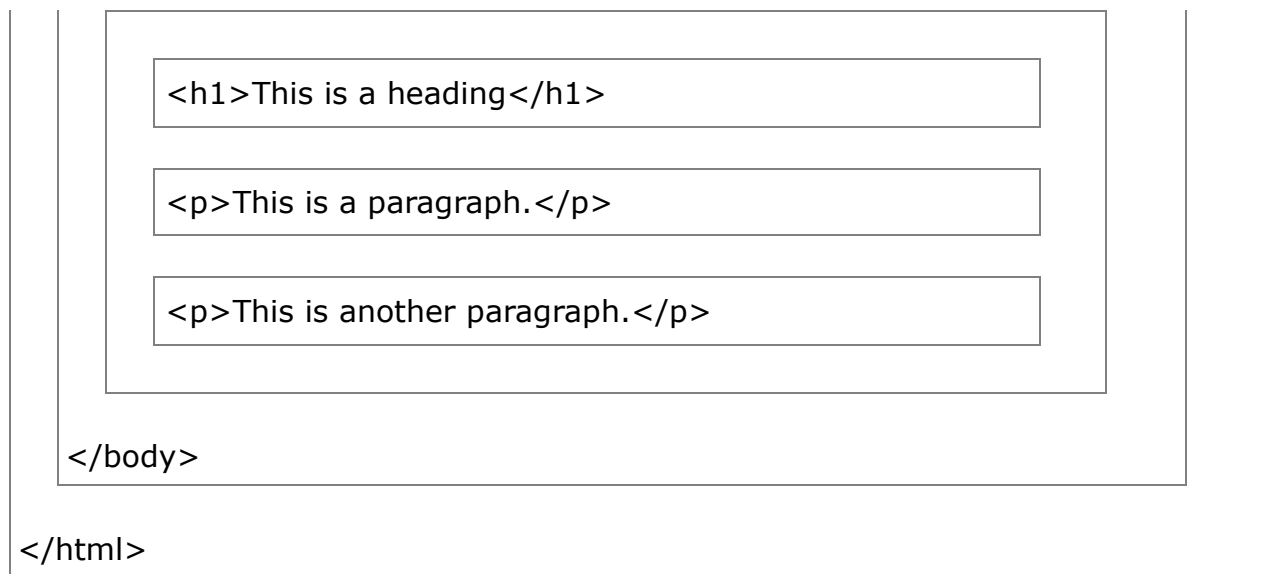
The browser does not display the HTML tags, but uses them to determine how to display the document:



HTML Page Structure

Below is a visualization of an HTML page structure:





Note: Only the content inside the `<body>` section (the white area above) is displayed in a browser.

The `<!DOCTYPE>` Declaration

The `<!DOCTYPE>` declaration represents the document type, and helps browsers to display web pages correctly.

It must only appear once, at the top of the page (before any HTML tags).

The `<!DOCTYPE>` declaration is not case sensitive.

The `<!DOCTYPE>` declaration for HTML5 is:

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
```

HTML Versions

Since the early days of the web, there have been many versions of HTML:

Version	Year
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HTML	1991
HTML 2.0	1995
HTML 3.2	1997
HTML 4.01	1999
XHTML	2000
HTML5	2014

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