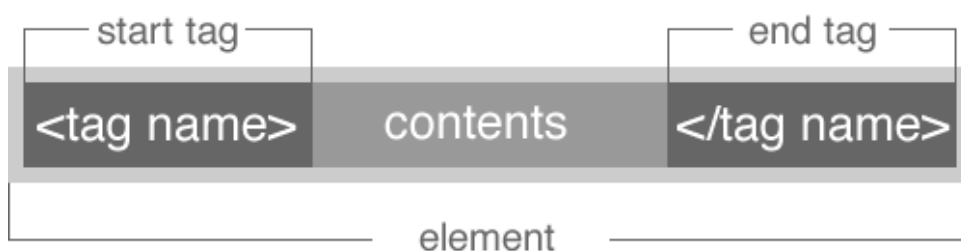# HTML Tags

Tag syntax

HTML is using tags for its syntax. A tag is composed with special characters: **<**, **>** and **/**. They are interpreted by softwares to compose an HTML element.

Decomposition of HTML elements

HTML elements usually come in tag pairs.

[(https://www.w3.org/community/webed/wiki/File:Elements.png)](https://www.w3.org/community/webed/wiki/File:Elements.png)

For opening a simple element with a **start tag**

1. it starts with **<**
2. then a list of characters without space, the tagname (or element)
3. ends usually with a **>**.

Then closing the simple element with an **end tag**

1. it starts with **</**
2. then the **same** list of characters without space, the tagname (or element)
3. ends usually with a **>**.

If the tagname is "cite", then you get

```
<cite></cite>
```

Some elements do not have an end tag (because they are implied by the following tags). For example you might have seen:

```
<br>
```

An element can have attributes to refine its meaning.

These attributes are specified on the start tag. They consist of a name and a value, separated by an "=" character. Such as:

```
<tagname attribute="value"></tagname>
```

In HTML, the attribute value can remain unquoted if it doesn't contain spaces or any of the following characters: " ' ` = < or >. Otherwise, it has to be quoted using either single or double quotes. The value, along with the "=" character, can be omitted altogether if the value is the empty string. Once you are working in a team you might want to choose a common way of authoring your code.

These are examples of syntaxes you might see on the Web:

```
<!-- empty attributes -->
<input disabled>
<input disabled="">
<input disabled=""/>

<!-- attributes with a value -->
<input name=address>
<input name='address'>
<input name="address">
```