

Semantic Tags vs — Comparison & When to Use

1. Meaning & Purpose

Semantic Tags:

These tags have meaning that describes the purpose of the content.

Examples: , , , ,

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A generic container with no meaning. It is used only for grouping elements and applying CSS layouts.

2. Readability

Semantic Tags:

Makes HTML easier to read and understand because the structure is clear.

Example: A developer instantly knows what contains page-ending content.

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Not readable by meaning — you must rely on IDs or classes (e.g.,).

3. SEO (Search Engine Optimization)

Semantic Tags:

Highly SEO-friendly. Search engines like Google understand the page structure better, improving ranking.

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Not helpful for SEO because it does not tell search engines anything about content meaning.

4. Accessibility

Semantic Tags:

Screen readers can easily identify navigation, main content, and sidebars.

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Provides no accessibility benefits unless combined with role="" attributes.

5. Browser Behavior

Semantic Tags:

Browsers treat them as structural elements, applying default rules.

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Behaves only as a generic block element.