Inline Elements

Theory

19 minutes reading

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For many beginners, HTML structure can pose a challenge. Web page elements and their properties may be very confusing. To get things straight, it is enough to know the exact type of a particular web page element.

In HTML 4.01 or earlier, there are two main types of page elements: **block-level** and **inline**. In HTML5, however, the elements are not just divided into block-level and inline types, they are also grouped by their meaning and purpose, representing **content categories**. This concept will be considered at length in the topics to come. For now, try to understand the ins and outs of inline elements.

Inline elements are elements of a document that constitute an integral part of a line**.** They emphasize a part of a text and give it a certain function or meaning. They usually contain one or more words.

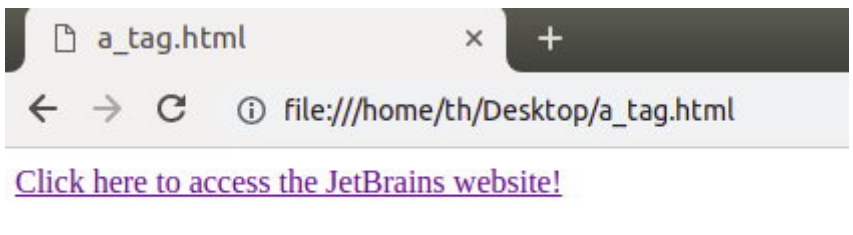
Let's now take a look at six examples of inline elements.

§1. The <a> tag

The `<a>` tag is probably one of the most important HTML elements. It's designed to create links. This tag is often used with the `href` attribute that indicates the path to a file/webpage. Consider a code snippet that takes us to the JetBrains website:

```
<a href="https://jetbrains.com">Click here to access the JetBrains webs
</a>
```

This is what we get in the browser:



The text wrapped in the `<a>` tag is highlighted and underlined. When you click on it, the link takes you to the address specified in the `href` attribute.

§2. The tag

You can wrap a text or a part of it in the `<span>` tag:

```
<p>For the first time <span>on our site</span>?</p>
<span>Sign up now!</span>
```

This tag does not affect the text representation:

For the first time on our site?

Sign up now!

You may want to ask a question why do we need this tag? The `<span>` tag is used when you need to change the appearance of a text using CSS. CSS is the language that describes the web page's appearance. The Frontend Developer track covers

1 required topic

- HTML page structure — In project

5 dependent topics

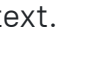
- Basic syntax — In project
- HTML attributes id and class — In project
- Links
- Images
- Django template language

this language; in the meantime, let's continue with inline elements.

§3. The <button> tag

To create a clickable button, use the `<button>` tag. You can wrap something in this paired tag, and the text will be displayed inside the button:

```
<button>Click</button>
```

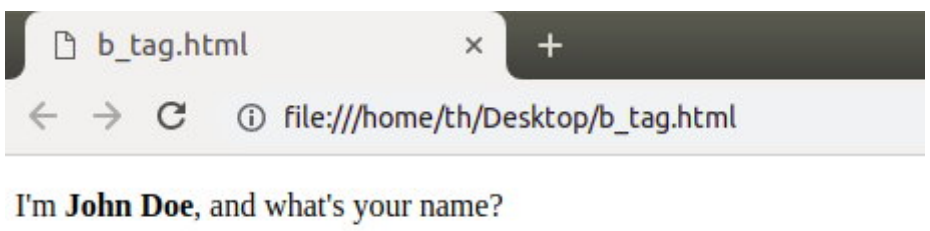


§4. The <b> tag

This paired tag makes any text bold. The limits of the text are indicated by the `<p>` tag. In the example below, we have changed the outline of the person name and surname:

```
<p>I'm <b>John Doe</b>, and what's your name?</p>
```

Now look at the result in the browser:



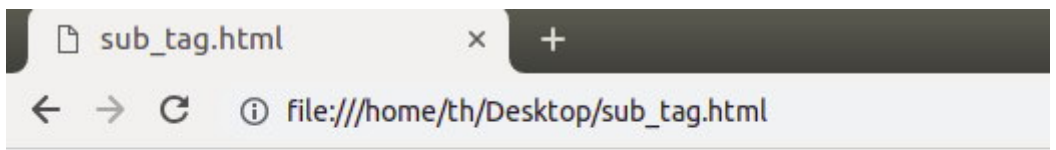
As you can see, this tag is very convenient and easy to use when you want to highlight an important part of the text.

§5. The <sub> tag

Use this tag to create a subscript text. The text inside this paired tag is scaled down and reduced in size. Let's see how it works:

```
<p>The formula of water is H<sub>2</sub>O.</p>
```

The result is the following:



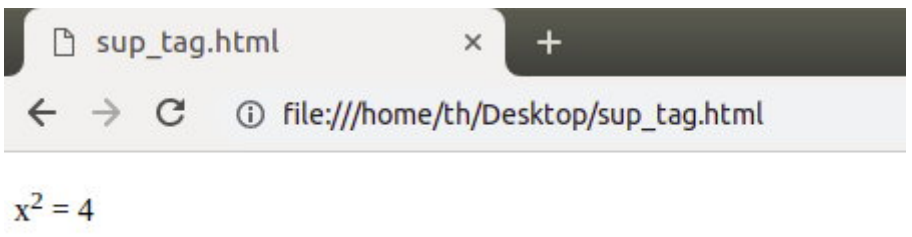
This tag comes in handy when you need to write a chemical formula.

§6. The <sup> tag

This tag creates a superscript text. It is similar to the previous tag we've covered, except that the text enclosed in this tag is scaled up:

```
<p>x<sup>2</sup> = 4</p>
```

This is the result we see in a browser:



With `<sup>`, you can display mathematical equations and formulas on your web page.

This is by far not a complete list of inline elements, as there is definitely more to know.

§7. Inline elements features

The following features are characteristic of all inline elements:

- They can contain only data and other inline items. The only exception is the `<a>` tag that can also contain block-level elements.
- A browser doesn't make a line break before and after a tag. Take a look at the behavior of inline elements and compare it with that of block-level elements:

- Inline elements work only when they are enclosed in tags.

§8. Conclusion

In this topic, we have covered a small portion of inline elements. They are a great asset; you can do a lot of things with them, from creating a link to displaying a complex mathematical formula. It will take time to memorize them all, so carry on and stay focused on the practical side. Speaking of which, let's complete our code challenges!

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