



Web Development

HTML5 Semantic Elements



Semantic Elements

Semantics is the study of the meanings of words and phrases in a language.

Semantic elements = elements with a meaning.

What are semantic elements?

A semantic element clearly describes its meaning to both the browser and the developer.

Examples of **non-semantic** elements: `<div>` and `` - Tells nothing about its content.

Examples of **semantic** elements: `<form>`, `<table>`, and `<article>` - Clearly defines its content.



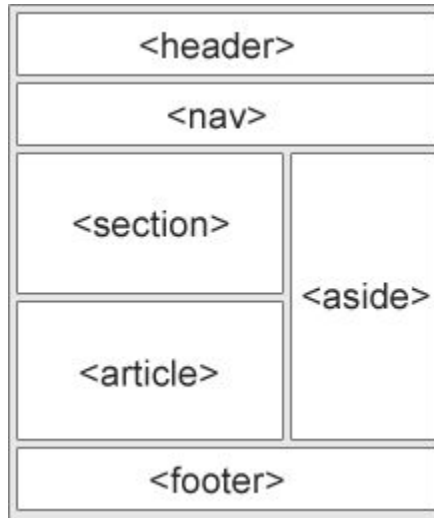
HTML5 Semantic Elements

HTML5 semantic elements are supported in all modern browsers.

<code><article></code>	<code><figcaption></code>	<code><header></code>	<code><nav></code>	<code><time></code>
<code><aside></code>	<code><figure></code>	<code><main></code>	<code><section></code>	
<code><details></code>	<code><footer></code>	<code><mark></code>	<code><summary></code>	



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<article> Element

The <article> element specifies independent, self-contained content.

An article should make sense on its own, and it should be possible to read it independently from the rest of the web site.

Examples of where an <article> element can be used:

- Forum post
- Blog post
- Newspaper article



<header> Element

The `<header>` element specifies a header for a document or section.

The `<header>` element should be used as a container for introductory content.

You can have several `<header>` elements in one document.



<footer> Element

The <footer> element specifies a footer for a document or section.

A <footer> element should contain information about its containing element.

A footer typically contains the author of the document, copyright information, links to terms of use, contact information, etc.

You may have several <footer> elements in one document.



<figure> and <figcaption> Elements

The purpose of a figure caption is to add a visual explanation to an image.

In HTML5, an image and a caption can be grouped together in a <figure> element:

```
1 <figure>
2   
3   <figcaption>Moraine Lake, Alberta.</figcaption>
4 </figure>
```




HTML5 Semantic Elements

DEMO!



Why use semantic elements?

With HTML4, developers used their own id/class names to style elements: header, top, bottom, footer, menu, navigation, main, container, content, article, sidebar, topnav, etc.

This made it impossible for search engines to identify the correct web page content.

With the new HTML5 elements (`<header>` `<footer>` `<nav>` `<section>` `<article>`), this will become easier.

According to the W3C, a Semantic Web: "Allows data to be shared and reused across applications, enterprises, and communities."



Online Resources

Articles to read:

- [Using HTML sections and outlines](#)
- [HTML Elements Reference](#)



Resources

- [W3Schools](#)