

## Semantic Elements

When building web pages, we use a combination of non-semantic **HTML** and Semantic **HTML**. The word semantic means "*related to meaning*", so semantic elements provide information about the content between the opening and closing tags.

By using Semantic **HTML**, we select **HTML** elements based on their meaning, not on how they are presented. Elements such as `<div>` and `<span>` are not semantic elements since they provide no context as to what is inside of those tags.

For example, instead of using a `<div>` element to contain our header information, we could use a `<header>` element, which is used as a heading section. By using a `<header>` tag instead of a `<div>`, we provide context as to what information is inside of the opening and closing tag.

## Why Use Semantic Elements?

- **Accessibility:** Semantic **HTML** makes webpages accessible for mobile device and for people with disabilities as well. This is because screen reader and browsers are able to interpret the code better.
- **SEO:** it improves the website **SEO**, or Search Engine Optimization, which is the process of increasing the number of people that visit your webpages. With better **SEO**, search engines are better able to identify the content of your website and weight the most important content appropriately.
- **Easy to Understand:** Semantic **HTML** also makes the website's source code easier to read for other web developers.

To better understand this, you can think of comparing non-semantic **HTML** to going into a store with no signs on the aisles. Since the aisles aren't labeled, you don't know what products are in those aisles. However, stores that do have signs for each aisle make it a lot easier to find the items you need, just like Semantic **HTML**.

Many web sites contain **HTML** code like: `<div id="header">`, `<div id="nav">`, `<div id="main">`, `<div id="footer">` to indicate header, navigation, main content and footer.

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