

HTML5 Guide: Semantic Elements

Element	Code	Note
Header	<code><header></header></code>	Creates the head section of the web page. Its content may be text and/or images
Nav	<code><nav></nav></code>	Used to define a site's navigational system. Usually it will contain a list but can contain other content. Unnecessary for links within an article or a short list links such as in the footer.
Article	<code><article></article></code>	Defines the main article of a web page An article should stand by itself and it should be possible to distribute it independently from the rest of the site. Potential uses for the <code><article></code> element to define: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forum post • Blog post • News story • Comment
Aside	<code><aside></aside></code>	Contains content that is tangentially related to the web page's primary content. Often used to create a side bar for content that is not primary page content. The <code><aside></code> tag defines some content aside from the content it is placed in. The aside content should be related to the surrounding content. The <code><aside></code> content is usually placed as a sidebar to an article.
Section	<code><section></section></code>	A section is a thematic grouping of content. Can be used to divide an article into different thematic groupings. Each section can have its own h1. In this content a section will usually contain at least a heading element and one or more paragraph elements. Additional examples of sections would be chapters in a book, the various tabbed pages in a tabbed dialog box, or the numbered sections of a thesis. A Web site's home page could be split into sections for an introduction, news items, and contact information.
Figure	<code><figure></figure></code>	Used to annotate illustrations, diagrams, photos, code listings, etc, that are referred to from the main content of the document. Child elements are usually image, code, video, and figcaption elements
Figure Caption	<code><figcaption></figcaption></code>	Used when the figure element needs a caption or legend Child of the figure element
Footer	<code><footer></footer></code>	Indicates the footer area of a web page. May have the paragraph and/or the address elements as its child elements.

Main	<pre><main> <article>. . .</article> <article>. . .</article> <div>. . .</div> </main></pre>	<p>The <main> tag identifies the main content of a document.</p> <p>The content inside the <main> element should be unique to the document. It should not contain any content that is repeated across documents such as sidebars, navigation links, copyright information, site logos, and search forms.</p> <p>Note: There must not be more than one <main> element in a document. The <main> element must NOT be a descendent of an <article>, <aside>, <footer>, <header>, or <nav> element.</p>
Phrase or Inline Semantic Elements		
Mark	<pre><mark></mark></pre>	Use with in a block element, such as the P tag, to denote marked or highlighted text. Most browsers highlight the text in yellow.
Time	<pre><time>2014-02-14</time></pre>	Use with in a block element, such as the P tag, to define either a time (24 hour clock), or a date in the Gregorian calendar, optionally with a time and a time-zone offset. The tag does not render as anything special in any of the major browsers. It's content must be a date/time in machine-readable format.
datetime	<pre><time datetime="2014-02-14"></pre>	The value of optional datetime attribute must be encoded as a machine-readable date/time format. If the attribute is not include the element's contents is given as the date/time.

All of the above elements support the Style, Class, and ID attributes for applying CSS. They also support the Title attribute for accessibility and global attributes (see Global Attributes handout).

It is a good practice in your CSS styles to use group selectors to set all the non-phrase elements to display as block and the phrase elements to display as inline so that browsers know how to render these elements.