

# The HTML Document

## IN THIS LESSON

The !DOCTYPE declaration

The <html> element

The <head> and <body>

<meta> and <title>

Conceptualizing the structure

# THE !DOCTYPE DECLARATION

`<!DOCTYPE html>`

Use as first line of all HTML documents

Tells browser your webpage follows modern HTML standards

Legacy reasons - older webpages without this declaration  
handled differently by browsers

Not case sensitive, but `DOCTYPE` is usually capitalized

## THE <html> ELEMENT

```
<html lang="en">
```

```
...
```

```
</html>
```

Start tag immediately follows **!DOCTYPE** declaration

End tag should be final line of document

Include **lang** attribute to let browser know language of content

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
<head>
  ...
</head>
<body>
  ...
</body>
```

## THE `<head>` ELEMENT

Contains metadata - data about data

Used by browser for information on how to display webpage

Always set `<meta charset="utf-8" />` and `<title>` elements

`<meta charset="utf-8" />` void element, indicates character encoding used for document, set as first element inside `<head>`

`<title>` has start and end tag with title text between, used for browser tab text and search engines

## THE `<body>` ELEMENT

Holds content of webpage visible to user

Many different elements used in the body, such as `<h1>`

More discussed in next lesson

# CONCEPTUALIZING THE STRUCTURE

Two ways to visualize the structure: node tree & nested set

