HTML Elements
The HTML element is everything from the start tag to the end tag:
<tagname>Content goes here...</tagname>
Examples of some HTML elements:

<h1>My First Heading</h1>
<p>My first paragraph.</p>
Start tag   Element content   End tag
<h1>   My First Heading   </h1>
<p>   My first paragraph.   </p>

    none   none
Note: Some HTML elements have no content (like the <br> element). These elements are called empty elements. Empty elements do not have an end tag!

Nested HTML Elements
HTML elements can be nested (this means that elements can contain other elements).

All HTML documents consist of nested HTML elements.

The following example contains four HTML elements (<html>, <body>, <h1> and <p>):

Example
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<body>
<h1>My First Heading</h1>
<p>My first paragraph.</p>
</body>
</html>
Example Explained
The <html> element is the root element and it defines the whole HTML document.

It has a start tag <html> and an end tag </html>.

Then, inside the <html> element there is a <body> element:

<body>

<h1>My First Heading</h1>
<p>My first paragraph.</p>

</body>
The <body> element defines the document's body.

It has a start tag <body> and an end tag </body>.

Then, inside the <body> element there are two other elements: <h1> and <p>:

<h1>My First Heading</h1>
<p>My first paragraph.</p>
The <h1> element defines a heading.

It has a start tag <h1> and an end tag </h1>:

<h1>My First Heading</h1>
The <p> element defines a paragraph.

It has a start tag <p> and an end tag </p>:

<p>My first paragraph.</p>
Never Skip the End Tag
Some HTML elements will display correctly, even if you forget the end tag:

Example
<html>
<body>

<p>This is a paragraph
<p>This is a paragraph

</body>
</html>
However, never rely on this! Unexpected results and errors may occur if you forget the end tag!

Empty HTML Elements
HTML elements with no content are called empty elements.

The <br> tag defines a line break, and is an empty element without a closing tag:

Example
<p>This is a <br> paragraph with a line break.</p>
HTML is Not Case Sensitive
HTML tags are not case sensitive: <P> means the same as <p>.

The HTML standard does not require lowercase tags, but W3C recommends lowercase in HTML, and demands lowercase for stricter document types like XHTML.

HTML Tag Reference

Tag	Description
<!--...-->	Defines a comment
<!DOCTYPE>	Defines the document type
<a>	Defines a hyperlink
<abbr>	Defines an abbreviation or an acronym
<acronym>	Not supported in HTML5. Use <abbr> instead. Defines an acronym
<address>	Defines contact information for the author/owner of a document
<applet>	Not supported in HTML5. Use <embed> or <object> instead. Defines an embedded applet
<area>	Defines an area inside an image map
<article>	Defines an article
<aside>	Defines content aside from the page content
<audio>	Defines embedded sound content
<b>	Defines bold text
<base>	Specifies the base URL/target for all relative URLs in a document

<basefont>   Not supported in HTML5. Use CSS instead.
Specifies a default color, size, and font for all text in a document
<bdi> Isolates a part of text that might be formatted in a different direction from other text outside it
<bdo> Overrides the current text direction
<big> Not supported in HTML5. Use CSS instead.
Defines big text
<blockquote> Defines a section that is quoted from another source
<body>   Defines the document's body

   Defines a single line break
<button>   Defines a clickable button
<canvas>   Used to draw graphics, on the fly, via scripting (usually JavaScript)
<caption>   Defines a table caption
<center>   Not supported in HTML5. Use CSS instead.
Defines centered text
<cite> Defines the title of a work
<code>   Defines a piece of computer code
<col> Specifies column properties for each column within a <colgroup> element
<colgroup>   Specifies a group of one or more columns in a table for formatting
<data> Adds a machine-readable translation of a given content
<datalist>   Specifies a list of pre-defined options for input controls
<dd>   Defines a description/value of a term in a description list
<del> Defines text that has been deleted from a document
<details>   Defines additional details that the user can view or hide
<dfn> Specifies a term that is going to be defined within the content
<dialog>   Defines a dialog box or window
<dir> Not supported in HTML5. Use <ul> instead.
Defines a directory list
<div> Defines a section in a document
<dl>   Defines a description list
<dt>   Defines a term/name in a description list
<em> Defines emphasized text
<embed>   Defines a container for an external application
<fieldset>   Groups related elements in a form
<figcaption> Defines a caption for a <figure> element
<figure>   Specifies self-contained content
<font> Not supported in HTML5. Use CSS instead.
Defines font, color, and size for text
<footer>   Defines a footer for a document or section
<form>   Defines an HTML form for user input
<frame>   Not supported in HTML5.
Defines a window (a frame) in a frameset
<frameset>   Not supported in HTML5.
Defines a set of frames
<h1> to <h6> Defines HTML headings
<head>   Contains metadata/information for the document
<header>   Defines a header for a document or section
<hr>   Defines a thematic change in the content
<html>   Defines the root of an HTML document
<i>   Defines a part of text in an alternate voice or mood
<iframe>   Defines an inline frame
<img> Defines an image

\<input\>   Defines an input control

\<ins\>   Defines a text that has been inserted into a document

\<kbd\>   Defines keyboard input

\<label\>   Defines a label for an \<input\> element

\<legend\>   Defines a caption for a \<fieldset\> element

\<li\>   Defines a list item

\<link\>   Defines the relationship between a document and an external resource (most used to link to style sheets)

\<main\>   Specifies the main content of a document

\<map\> Defines an image map

\<mark\>   Defines marked/highlighted text

\<meta\>   Defines metadata about an HTML document

\<meter\>   Defines a scalar measurement within a known range (a gauge)

\<nav\>   Defines navigation links

\<noframes\>   Not supported in HTML5.
Defines an alternate content for users that do not support frames

\<noscript\>   Defines an alternate content for users that do not support client-side scripts

\<object\>   Defines a container for an external application

\<ol\>   Defines an ordered list

\<optgroup\>   Defines a group of related options in a drop-down list

\<option\>   Defines an option in a drop-down list

\<output\>   Defines the result of a calculation

\<p\>   Defines a paragraph

\<param\>   Defines a parameter for an object

\<picture\>   Defines a container for multiple image resources

\<pre\>   Defines preformatted text

\<progress\>   Represents the progress of a task

\<q\>   Defines a short quotation

\<rp\>   Defines what to show in browsers that do not support ruby annotations

\<rt\>   Defines an explanation/pronunciation of characters (for East Asian typography)

\<ruby\>   Defines a ruby annotation (for East Asian typography)

\<s\>   Defines text that is no longer correct

\<samp\>   Defines sample output from a computer program

\<script\>   Defines a client-side script

\<section\>   Defines a section in a document

\<select\>   Defines a drop-down list

\<small\>   Defines smaller text

\<source\>   Defines multiple media resources for media elements (\<video\> and \<audio\>)

\<span\>   Defines a section in a document

\<strike\>   Not supported in HTML5. Use \<del\> or \<s\> instead.
Defines strikethrough text

\<strong\>   Defines important text

\<style\>   Defines style information for a document

\<sub\> Defines subscripted text

\<summary\>   Defines a visible heading for a \<details\> element

\<sup\> Defines superscripted text

\<svg\> Defines a container for SVG graphics

\<table\>   Defines a table

\<tbody\>   Groups the body content in a table

\<td\>   Defines a cell in a table

\<template\>   Defines a container for content that should be hidden when the page loads

\<textarea\>   Defines a multiline input control (text area)

<tfoot>	Groups the footer content in a table

<th>	Defines a header cell in a table

<thead>	Groups the header content in a table

<time>	Defines a specific time (or datetime)

<title>	Defines a title for the document

<tr>	Defines a row in a table

<track>	Defines text tracks for media elements (<video> and <audio>)

<tt>	Not supported in HTML5. Use CSS instead.
Defines teletype text

<u>	Defines some text that is unarticulated and styled differently from normal text

	Defines an unordered list

<var>	Defines a variable

<video>	Defines embedded video content

<wbr>	Defines a possible line-break