

Chapter 2: Doctypes

Doctypes - short for 'document type' - help browsers to understand the version of HTML the document is written in for better interpretability. Doctype declarations are not HTML tags and belong at the very top of a document. This topic explains the structure and declaration of various doctypes in HTML.

Section 2.1: Adding the Doctype

The `<!DOCTYPE>` declaration should always be included at the top of the HTML document, before the `<html>` tag.

Version ≥ 5

See HTML 5 Doctype for details on the HTML 5 Doctype.

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
```

Section 2.2: HTML 5 Doctype

HTML5 is not based on SGML (Standard Generalized Markup Language), and therefore does not require a reference to a DTD (Document Type Definition).

HTML 5 Doctype declaration:

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
```

Case Insensitivity

Per the [W3.org HTML 5 DOCTYPE Spec](https://www.w3.org/html/5.1/spec/):

A DOCTYPE must consist of the following components, in this order:

1. A string that is an ASCII **case-insensitive** match for the string `"<!DOCTYPE"`.

therefore the following DOCTYPEs are also valid:

```
<!doctype  
html>  
<!dOcTyPe  
html>  
<!DocType  
html>
```

This SO article discusses the topic extensively: [Uppercase or lowercase doctype?](#)

Chapter 3: Headings

HTML provides not only plain paragraph tags, but six separate header tags to indicate headings of various sizes and thicknesses. Enumerated as heading 1 through heading 6, heading 1 has the largest and thickest text while heading 6 is the smallest and thinnest, down to the paragraph level. This topic details proper usage of these tags.

Section 3.1: Using Headings

Headings can be used to describe the topic they precede and they are defined with the `<h1>` to `<h6>` tags. Headings support all the global attributes.

`<h1>` defines the most important heading.

`<h6>` defines the least important heading.

Defining a heading:

```
<h1>Heading
1</h1>
<h2>Heading
2</h2>
<h3>Heading
3</h3>
<h4>Heading
4</h4>
```

Correct structure matters

```
5</h5>
```

Search engines and other **user agents** usually index page content based on heading elements, for example to create a table of contents, so using the correct structure for headings is important.

In general, an article should have one h1 element for the main title followed by h2 subtitles – going down a layer if necessary. If there are h1 elements on a higher level they shouldn't be used to describe any lower level content.

Example document (extra indentation to illustrate hierarchy):

```
<h1>Main title</h1>
<p>Introduction</p>

  <h2>Reasons</h2>

    <h3>Reason 1</h3>
    <p>Paragraph</p>

    <h3>Reason 2</h3>
    <p>Paragraph</p>

  <h2>In conclusion</h2>
  <p>Paragraph</p>
```

Chapter 4: Paragraphs

Column Column

<p>Defines a paragraph

**
**Inserts a single line break

<pre>Defines pre-formatted text

Paragraphs are the most basic HTML element. This topic explains and demonstrates the usage of the paragraph element in HTML.

Section 4.1: HTML Paragraphs

The HTML **<p>** element defines a **paragraph**:

```
<p>This is a paragraph.</p>
<p>This is another paragraph.</p>
```

Display-

You cannot be sure how HTML will be displayed.

Large or small screens, and resized windows will create different results.

With HTML, you cannot change the output by adding extra spaces or extra lines in your HTML code.

The browser will remove any extra spaces and extra lines when the page is displayed:

```
<p>This is another paragraph, extra spaces will be removed by browsers</p>
```