Generic Elements

`<div> </div>`
Indicates division of content (generally block-level)

`<span> </span>`
Indicates a word or phrase

- Generic elements are given semantic meaning with the **`id`** and **`class`** attributes.

- They are useful for creating "hooks" for scripts and style rules.

Div Example

Use the **div** element to create a logical grouping of content or elements on the page.

It indicates that they belong together in some sort of conceptual unit or should be treated as a unit by CSS or JavaScript.

```
<div class="listing">
   <img src="images/felici-cover.gif" alt="">

   <p><cite>The Complete Manual of Typography</cite>, James
Felici</p>

   <p>A combination of type history and examples of good and
bad type design.</p>
</div>
```

Span Example

Use the **span** element for text and other inline elements for which no existing inline element currently exists.

In this example, a **span** is used to add semantic meaning to telephone numbers:

```
<ul>
  <li>John: <span class="tel">999.8282</span></li>
  <li>Paul: <span class="tel">888.4889</span></li>
  <li>George: <span class="tel">888.1628</span></li>
  <li>Ringo: <span class="tel">999.3220</span></li>
</ul>
```

id and class Attributes

id
Assigns a unique identifier to the element.

class
Classifies elements into a conceptual group.

Use the **id** attribute to identify.
Use the **class** attribute to classify.

NOTE: **id** and **class** can be used with *all* HTML elements.

The id Attribute

The value of an **id** attribute must be used only once in a document.

Here it identifies a listing for a particular book by its ISBN:

```
<div id="ISBN0321127307">
  <img src="felici-cover.gif" alt="">
  <p><cite>The Complete Manual of Typography</cite>, James
Felici</p>
  <p>A combination of type history ...</p>
</div>
```

Here it identifies a particular section of a document:

```
<section id="news">
  <!-- news items here -->
</section>
```

The class Attribute

A **class** value may be used by multiple elements to put them in conceptual groups for scripting or styling.

Here several book listings are classified as a "listing":

```
<div id="ISBN0321127307" class="listing">
 …
</div>

<div id="ISBN0881792063" class="listing">
…
</div>
```

An element may belong to more than one class. Separate class values with character spaces:

```
<div id="ISBN0321127307" class="listing book nonfiction">
```