

HTML Introduction

[◀ Previous](#) [Next ▶](#)

HTML is the standard markup language for creating Web pages.

What is HTML?

- HTML stands for Hyper Text Markup Language
 - HTML is the standard markup language for creating Web pages
 - HTML describes the structure of a Web page
 - HTML consists of a series of elements
 - HTML elements tell the browser how to display the content
 - HTML elements label pieces of content such as "this is a heading", "this is a paragraph", "this is a link", etc.
-

A Simple HTML Document

Example

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
<title>Page Title</title>
</head>
<body>

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

</body>
</html>
```

[Try it Yourself »](#)

Example Explained

- The `<!DOCTYPE html>` declaration defines that this document is an HTML5 document
- The `<html>` element is the root element of an HTML page
- The `<head>` element contains meta information about the HTML page

- The `<title>` element specifies a title for the HTML page (which is shown in the browser's title bar or in the page's tab)
 - The `<body>` element defines the document's body, and is a container for all the visible contents, such as headings, paragraphs, images, hyperlinks, tables, lists, etc.
 - The `<h1>` element defines a large heading
 - The `<p>` element defines a paragraph
-

What is an HTML Element?

An HTML element is defined by a start tag, some content, and an end tag:

`<tagname> Content goes here... </tagname>`

The HTML **element** is everything from the start tag to the end tag:

`<h1>My First Heading</h1>`

`<p>My first paragraph.</p>`

Start tag	Element content	End tag
<code><h1></code>	My First Heading	<code></h1></code>
<code><p></code>	My first paragraph.	<code></p></code>
<code>
</code>	<i>none</i>	<i>none</i>

Note: Some HTML elements have no content (like the `
` element). These elements are called empty elements. Empty elements do not have an end tag!

Web Browsers

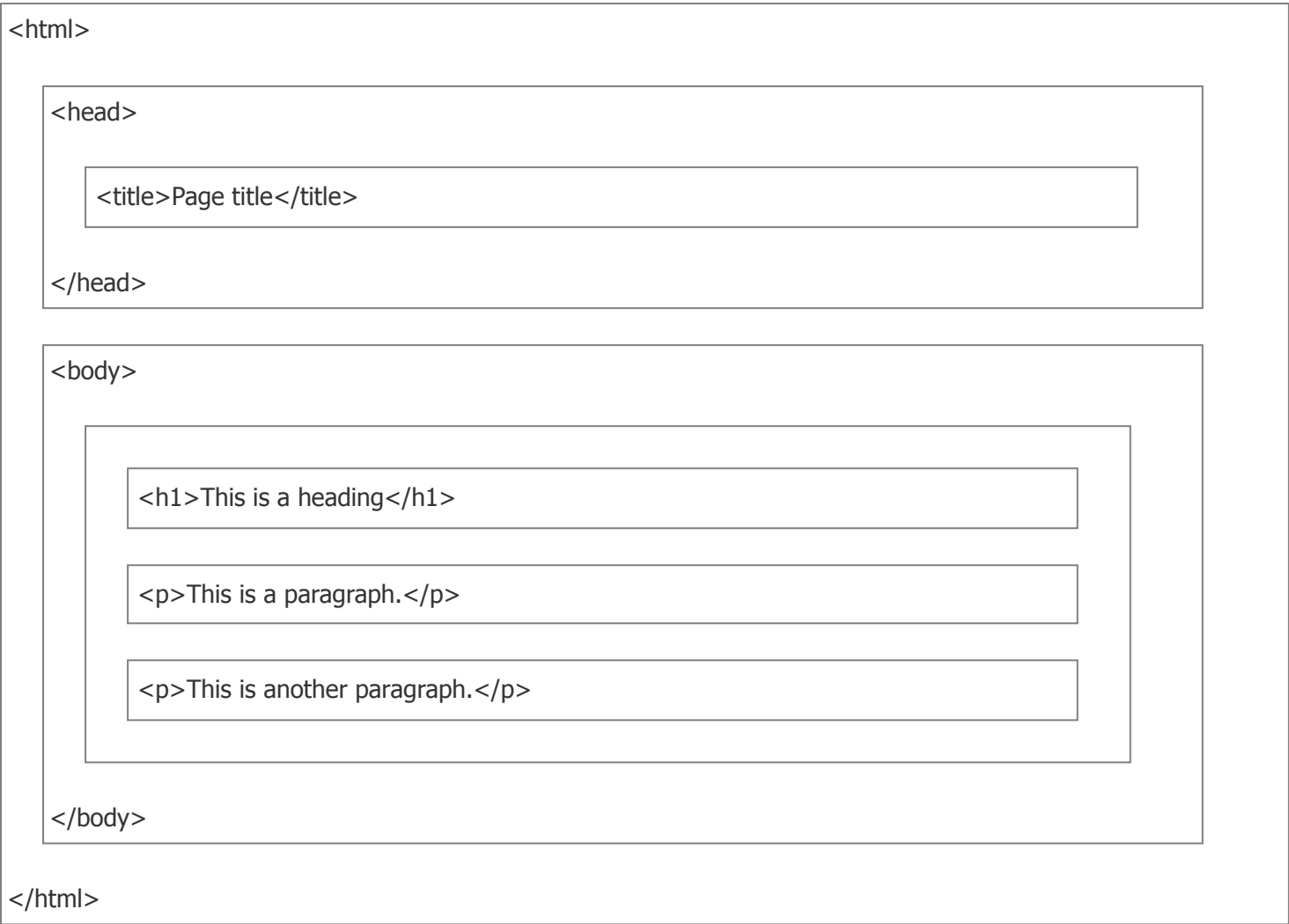
The purpose of a web browser (Chrome, Edge, Firefox, Safari) is to read HTML documents and display them correctly.

A browser does not display the HTML tags, but uses them to determine how to display the document:

 View in Browser

HTML Page Structure

Below is a visualization of an HTML page structure:



Note: The content inside the <body> section will be displayed in a browser. The content inside the <title> element will be shown in the browser's title bar or in the page's tab.

HTML History

Since the early days of the World Wide Web, there have been many versions of HTML:

Year	Version
1989	Tim Berners-Lee invented www
1991	Tim Berners-Lee invented HTML
1993	Dave Raggett drafted HTML+
1995	HTML Working Group defined HTML 2.0
1997	W3C Recommendation: HTML 3.2
1999	W3C Recommendation: HTML 4.01
2000	W3C Recommendation: XHTML 1.0

2008	WHATWG HTML5 First Public Draft
2012	WHATWG HTML5 Living Standard
2014	W3C Recommendation: HTML5
2016	W3C Candidate Recommendation: HTML 5.1
2017	W3C Recommendation: HTML5.1 2nd Edition
2017	W3C Recommendation: HTML5.2

This tutorial follows the latest HTML5 standard.

Exercise

?

What is this?

Test your skills by answering a few questions about the topics of this page

What does HTML stand for?

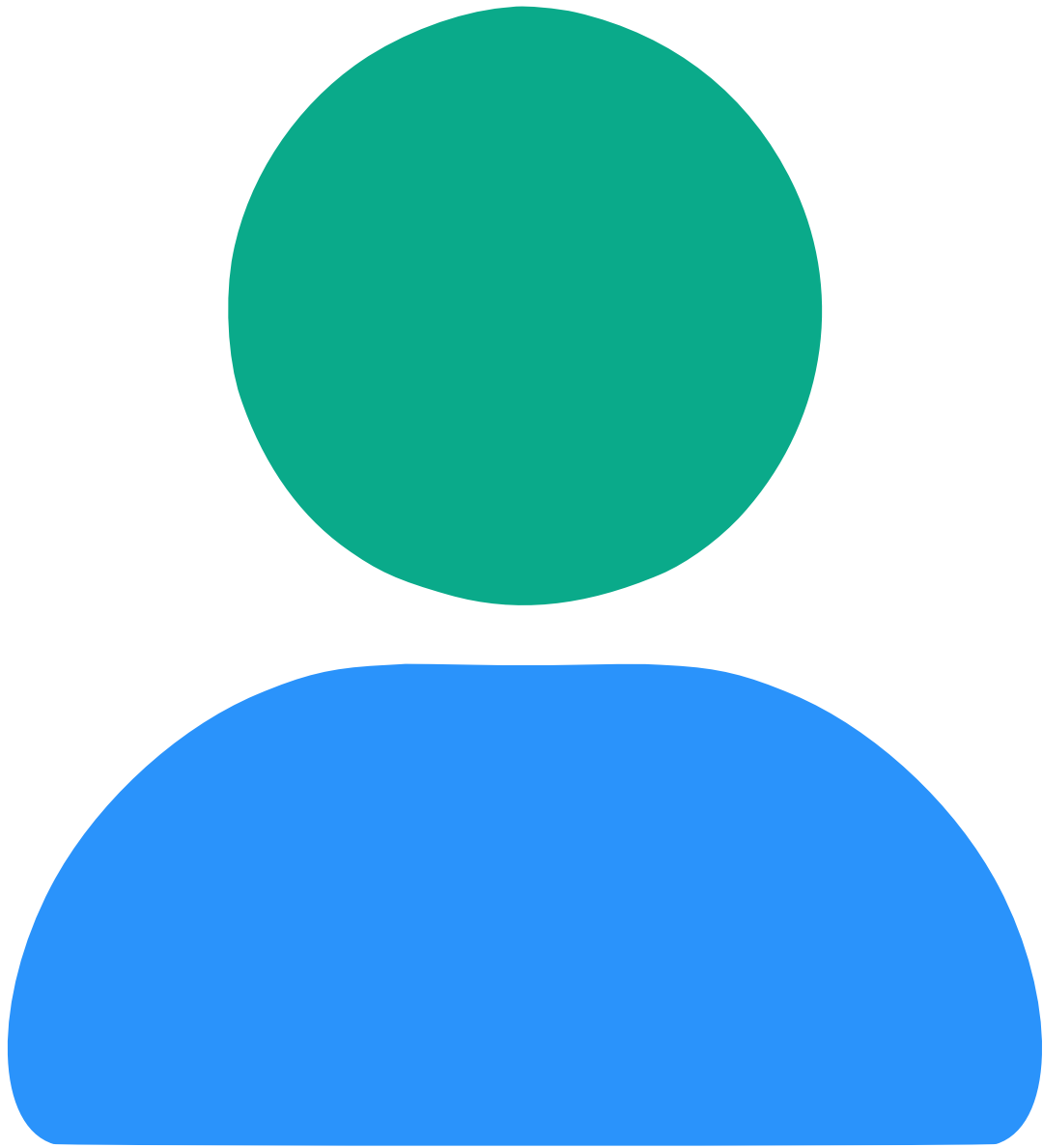
- ☐ Hot Typing Markup Language
- ☐ Home Typing Modern Language
- ☐ Hyper Text Markup Language
- ☐ Home Testing Mixed Language

Submit Answer »

Video: HTML Introduction



< Previous Next >



★ +1

Track your progress - it's free!

[Log in](#) [Sign Up](#)

 [Get Certified](#)

COLOR PICKER

 [colorpicker](#)
