

# Is there a content element in HTML5?

Asked 6 years, 5 months ago   Active 2 years, 7 months ago   Viewed 17k times



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I was confused about the `content` element the guy is using. I couldn't find information on it and as far as I know there wasn't something like this in HTML5. Am I wrong?

iterating code, from this video: <http://youtu.be/eOG90Q8EfRo?t=15m1s>

```
<article>
  <header> </header>
  <footer> </footer>
  <content> Is this correct? </content>
</article>
```

html

html5

edited Apr 8 '17 at 4:38



Omar

8,871

18

70

101

asked Jun 18 '13 at 13:44



sewo

290

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14

- 1 There is "something like this" in the WHATWG HTML living (un)standard, but it's called `<main>`, not `<content>`. In the W3C HTML5 standard, however, `<main>` is only for the dominant contents of the `<body>` element, so probably is inappropriate for marking the dominant contents of an article as per shown in the video. – [Alohci](#) Jun 18 '13 at 14:50

But using `<main>` replacing the `div.mainContent` would be correct? – [sewo](#) Feb 2 '14 at 21:53

I think so, as shown here: [developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTML/Element/main](http://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTML/Element/main), but only firefox and chrome are working – [sewo](#) Feb 2 '14 at 21:56

- 4 Fyi, a `<content>` tag does exist in HTML now. It's related to Shadow DOM: [developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTML/Element/content](http://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTML/Element/content) – [Ajedi32](#) Aug 11 '14 at 21:10

## 3 Answers

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A `<content>` element was proposed but [rejected](#) for HTML 5.

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Such is the peril of trying to teach draft specifications.



answered Jun 18 '13 at 13:46



[Quentin](#)

701k 83 953 1101

1 I don't think `<content>` made it into any HTML draft. Looks more like wishful thinking. – [Alohci](#) Jun 18 '13 at 14:58

4 The arguments against `content` in the linked article aren't really very good- amounting to semantically everything that isn't in another tag must be `content`, which is neither necessarily true, not helpful. If you're going to have `header` and `footer` it seems only logical and sensible to me to have `content` – [nicodemus13](#) Nov 21 '14 at 19:02

1 @nicodemus13 — Take it up with the spec writers then. (But the header and footer *are* content, even if they aren't the `main` content). – [Quentin](#) Nov 21 '14 at 19:56



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You can use `<main>`. It is used in HTML to separate the main content of your page.

Like this:



```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
  ...head content
</head>

<body>
  <header>
    ...header content
  </header>

  <nav>
    ...nav menu
  </nav>

  <main>
    ..  ..  ..  ..
```



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```

</article>

<article id="LottoSurprice">
...article content
</article>
</section>

<section id="blog">
...section content
</section>

<aside id="advertisement">
...aside content
</aside>
</main> <!-- end of page content -->

<footer>
...footer content
</footer>
</body>
</html>

```

— [<main>](#) [@MDN](#)

edited Oct 13 '15 at 22:17



jibiel

6,497 5 41 63

answered Jun 25 '14 at 22:01



Omar

8,871 18 70 101

- 2 ...but you can only have one main per document, so this doesn't work for any other situation where you might need a header-something-footer combination. — [Domino](#) Mar 31 '17 at 3:16

There is a [<content>](#) element, although it is used differently than how the presenter is using in the video linked in this question.

12

The HTML [<content>](#) element is used inside of Shadow DOM as an insertion point. It is not intended to be used in ordinary HTML. It is used with Web Components.

The presenter in the video probably should have been using the [<main>](#) element.

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content should be unique to the document, excluding any content that is repeated across a set of documents such as sidebars, navigation links, copyright information, site logos, and search forms (unless, of course, the document's main function is as a search form).

answered May 26 '15 at 18:36



kzh

15.2k

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- 
- 7 [The <content> element is no longer defined in the Shadow DOM spec](#). It seems to have been replaced by the `<slot>` element, which seeks to solve the same problem, but does so in a different way. – [Alohci](#) Sep 5 '15 at 0:29

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Note: `main` is used for main content in a document. Only one is allowed per document. Thus, it is not reusable like `section` or `header`. It's overall a pretty useless HTML tag. However, if the community came together and started using it as the main content of a section/article tag, that might force them to change the spec. – [Nick Manning](#) Jul 29 '16 at 20:39

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If you want to use `main` as the main thing between `header` and `footer`, note also that [main can't be put under an article tag](#). So you'll have to use something else for pages whose main content is a single article with a header and footer (even though in this case there is only one `main`). I suppose the best alternative is `section`. So for pages that contain only one article that has a header and footer, use: `<main><article> <header> <section><footer> </article></main>`. – [Ben J](#) Mar 31 '17 at 14:17

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