

HTML Elements

Elements are the fundamentals of HyperText Markup Language (HTML). Each HTML document is made of elements that are specified using tags.

HTML elements and HTML tags are often confused. The tags are used to open and close the object, whereas the element includes both tags and its content. Let's consider an example with the `<h1>` tag: `<h1> Title of the document </h1>` - is an element, and `<h1>`, `</h1>` - are tags.

HTML elements can come in pairs or be empty. The paired elements have an opening (`<>`) and (`</>`) closing tags, and the content of the element is placed in between them.

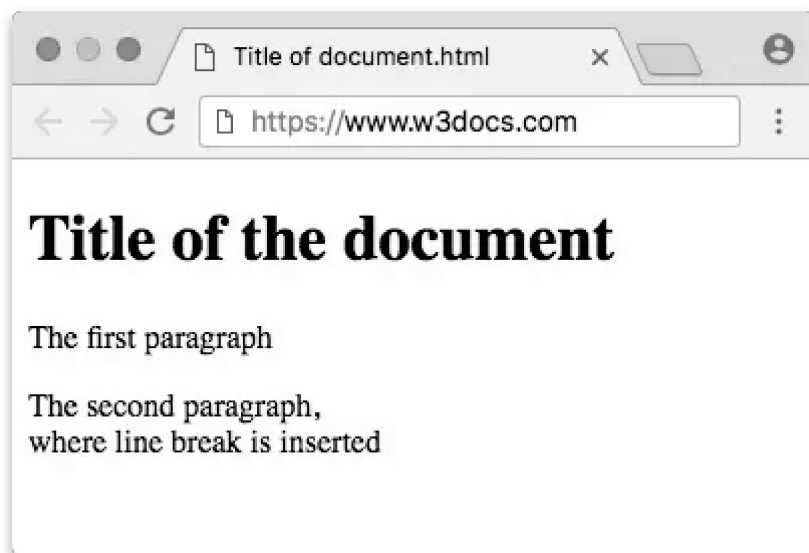
Do not forget the closing tag! Though some HTML elements are displayed correctly, even without the closing tag, however, do not rely on this. It might lead to unexpected results or errors.

The empty elements have no closing tags. In the HTML specification, the empty elements are "closed" in the opening tag like this: `
`.

The empty elements in HTML are: ``, `
`, `<hr/>`, `<input type="checkbox"/>`, `<input type="radio"/>`, `<input type="text"/>`, `<input type="password"/>`, `<input type="button"/>`, `<input type="submit"/>`, `<input type="reset"/>`, `<input type="range"/>`, `<input type="color"/>`, `<input type="file"/>`, `<input type="checkbox" checked="" />`, `<input type="radio" checked="" />`, `<input type="text" value=""/>`, `<input type="password" value=""/>`, `<input type="button" value=""/>`, `<input type="submit" value=""/>`, `<input type="reset" value=""/>`, `<input type="range" value=""/>`, `<input type="color" value=""/>`, `<input type="file" value=""/>`, and `<input type="checkbox" checked="" value=""/>`.

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
  <head>
    <title>Title of the document</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    <h1>Title of the document</h1>
```

```
<p>The first paragraph</p>
<p>The second paragraph, <br/> where line break is inserted </p>
</body>
</html>
```

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In the above-mentioned example we used 4 paired elements:

- the `<html>` element, which includes all other HTML elements of the webpage,
- the `<body>` element, which contains the body of the webpage,
- the `<p>` element, that define a paragraph,
- the `
` element, which contains the heading of the webpage.

In the given example we also used an empty `
` tag to insert a line-break.

For the purpose of styling, all HTML elements are divided into two categories: block-level elements and inline elements.

are those that structure the main part of your web page, by dividing your content into coherent blocks. They always start on a new line and take up the full width of a page, from left to right; they also can take up one line or multiple lines and have a line break before and after the element. Block-level elements can include both block-level & inline elements.

Block-level elements are

and

All block-level elements have opening and closing tags.

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
  <head>
    <title>Title of the document</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    <footer>
      <p>Author: W3docs team</p>
      <p><a href="info@w3docs.com">Send message to the author</a>.</p>
    </footer>
  </body>
</html>
```

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```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
  <head>
    <title>Title of the document</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    <h1>Title of the document</h1>
    <p>The first paragraph</p>
    <p><strong>This part of the sentence</strong> has a strong emphasis and is displa
  </body>
</html>
```

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HTML tags should be "nested" in proper order, meaning that the tag opened most recently is always the next tag to close.

In our example, we closed the `` tag first, and then the `<p>` tag.

In the end you should put the end tag. However, even if you forget about it, some HTML elements will still show correctly. The closing tag is considered to be optional, so the example below will work in all the browsers. But don't rely on this. If you want to avoid unexpected errors try not to forget about the end tag.

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
  <head>
    <title>Title of the document</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    <h1>HTML end tag </h1>
    <p>We forgot to put the end tag.
  </body>
</html>
```

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The HTML elements that don't have any content are called empty elements. The `
`, which defines a line break, is an empty element that doesn't have a closing tag.

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
  <head>
    <title>Title of the document</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    <h1>HTML &lt;br> tag</h1>
    <p>This tag <br> defines a line break.</p>
  </body>
</html>
```

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