

# 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>
<h5>Heading 5</h5>
<h6>Heading 6</h6>
```

### Correct structure matters

**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>
```