

# Introduction to HTML

Max Design - Hands-on CSS

Lesson

SIX

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What will we  
**cover** in this  
lesson?

# Lesson 6: Valid markup

What is valid markup?

Missing doctype

Missing `<img>` ALT attributes

ID referenced more than once

Incorrectly nested elements

Block-level elements inside inline elements

Forgetting to close elements

Escaping special characters

Exercise: finding the problems

**Note:**

What is valid  
markup?

As with other languages,  
HTML has its **own grammar  
and syntax rules**. All HTML  
documents are supposed to  
follow these rules.

“Validation” is the process of **testing an HTML document** to see whether it follows these rules. A document that passes this process with success is called “valid”.

There are **many tools** that can be used to check if your HTML is valid or not.

The W3C Markup Validation

<http://validator.w3.org/>



Invalid documents will generally still display in a browser. However, they **may not appear as you would like** as the browser may have to guess what you intended.

Ideally, we should try to **write valid markup** for all of our HTML documents, so that our pages will perform as expected.

There are a range of **common validation mistakes** that people make when creating HTML documents. Let's look at some of them.

Mistake 1:

Missing doctype

A common validation mistake is to **forgot to include a doctype** in your HTML documents.

Every HTML document is **required** to have a doctype as the first line of the document.

A screenshot of a code editor window with a light gray title bar and a vertical scrollbar on the right. The editor contains the text '<!DOCTYPE html>' in a blue monospaced font.

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
```

Mistake 2:

Missing <img>

ALT attributes

A common validation mistake is to **forgot to include an ALT attribute** with `<img>` elements.



Every `<img>` element is **required** to have an ALT attribute to aid assistive technologies and devices that cannot see the image.

```

```

Mistake 3:

ID referenced  
more than once

A common validation mistake is to **include more than one ID with the same value** in the same HTML document.

The ID attribute is a “unique identifier”. Each ID value **must be unique within that document.**

```
<div id="intro"></div>  
<div id="something-else"></div>
```

Mistake 4:

Incorrectly nested  
elements

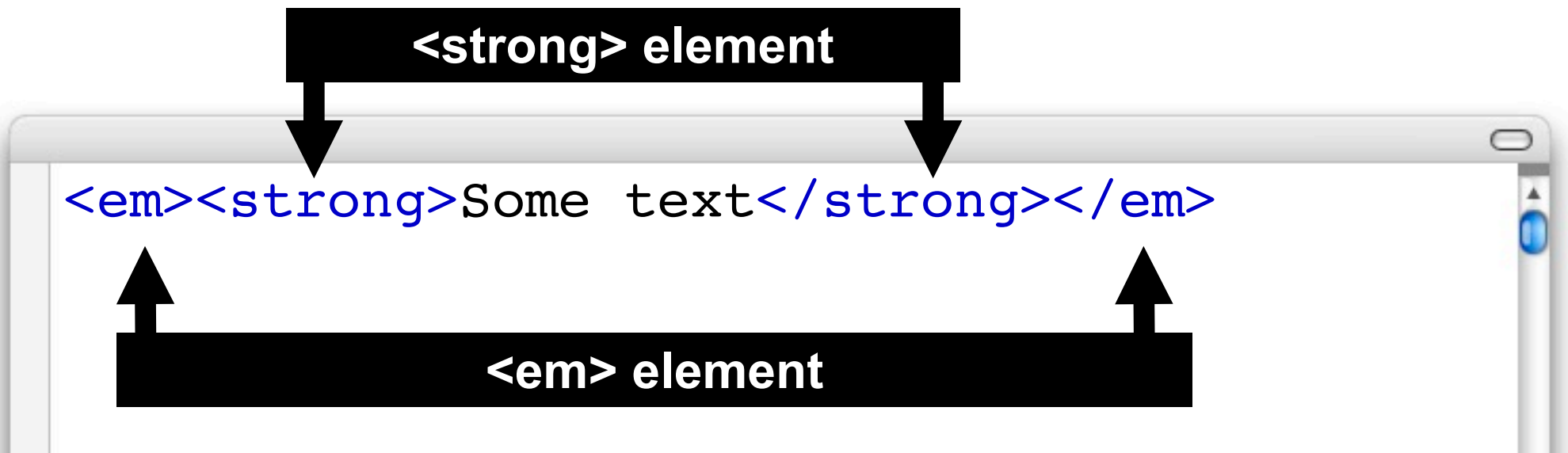
A common validation mistake is to **incorrectly nest elements** inside other HTML elements.

**<strong> element**

```
<em><strong>Some text</em></strong>
```

**<em> element**

HTML elements cannot be **incorrectly nested** inside other elements.



Mistake 5:  
Block-level  
elements inside  
inline elements



A common validation mistake is to **wrap an inline element around a block level element.**

```
<span>  
  <div id="intro"></div>  
</span>
```


Block-level elements can be wrapped around inline elements, **but inline elements** cannot wrap around block-level elements.

```
<div id="intro">  
  <span></span>  
</div>
```

Mistake 6:

Forgetting to  
close elements

A common validation mistake is to **forget to add a closing tag** on some HTML elements.



```
<span>  
<div>
```

While HTML5 is quite forgiving, all HTML elements (except for void elements) **should include a closing tag.**

```
<span></span>  
<div></div>  
<label>label info here
```

Mistake 7:

Escaping special  
characters

A common validation mistake is to **forget to escape special characters.**

**special character**



```
<p>Simon & Simon</p>
```

A range of characters need to be “**escaped**” so that will display properly in HTML pages.

**special character**



```
<p>Simon &amp; Simon</p>
```



# Here are some examples:

Symbol	Entity
Space	&nbsp;
&	&amp;
<	&lt;
>	&gt;
©	&copy;
®	&reg;

Exercise:  
finding the  
problems

Open the folder called  
“start” and then open the file  
called “**lesson06.htm**” using  
some sort of HTML editor.

Now go through the document and see if you can **find all the problems** that we have discussed and fix them. Use the finished version to check when you are done!



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