

# 3. Links, Forms & Semantic Tags

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## 1. Links in HTML

### → ▼ The `<a>` tag

The HTML `<a>` tag defines a hyperlink. It has the following syntax:

→ 

```
<a href="www.codingshuttle.com">Click Here</a>
```

The most important attribute of the `<a>` element is the `href` attribute, which indicates the link's destination. The *link text* is the part that will be visible to the reader.

Clicking on the link text will send the reader to the specified URL address.

### ▼ The `target` attribute

The linked page will be displayed in the current browser window by default. To change this, you must specify another target for the link.

The `target` attribute specifies where to open the linked document.

The `target` attribute can have one of the following values:

- `_self` - Default. Opens the document in the same window/tab as it was clicked
- `_blank` - Opens the document in a new window or tab

### ▼ Link Bookmarks

You can create links to another part of the same web page too. First Use the id attribute to create the bookmark, then create the link to the bookmark from the same page.

### ▼ Phone and Email URLs

Phone: `<a href="tel:+01273123456">Your text here</a>`

Email: `<a href="mailto:somone@example.com">Your text here</a>`

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## 2. Forms in HTML

### ▼ The `form` and `input` Elements

The HTML `<form>` element is used to create an HTML form for user input.

The `<form>` element is a container for different types of input elements, such as text fields, checkboxes, radio buttons, submit buttons, etc.

The `<input type="text">` defines a single-line input field for text input.

```
<form>
  <label for="fname">First name:</label><br>
  <input type="text" id="fname" name="fname"><br>
  <label for="lname">Last name:</label><br>
  <input type="text" id="lname" name="lname">
</form>
```

HTML Input Types:

```
<input type="button">
<input type="checkbox">
<input type="color">
<input type="date">
<input type="datetime-local">
<input type="email">
<input type="file">
<input type="hidden">
<input type="image">
<input type="month">
```

```
<input type="number">
<input type="password">
<input type="radio">
<input type="range">
<input type="reset">
<input type="search">
<input type="submit">
<input type="tel">
<input type="text">
<input type="time">
<input type="url">
<input type="week">
```

### ▼ The `label` element

The `<label>` element defines a label for several form elements.

The `<label>` element is useful for screen-reader users because the screen-reader will read out loud the label when the user focuses on the input element.

The `<label>` element also help users who have difficulty clicking on very small regions (such as radio buttons or checkboxes) - because when the user clicks the text within the `<label>` element, it toggles the radio button/checkbox.

The `for` attribute of the `<label>` tag should be equal to the `id` attribute of the `<input>` element to bind them together.

### ▼ The `select` and `option` elements

The `<select>` element defines a drop-down list:

```
<label for="cars">Choose a car:</label>
<select id="cars" name="cars" size="4" multiple>
  <option value="volvo">Volvo</option>
  <option value="saab">Saab</option>
  <option value="fiat">Fiat</option>
  <option value="audi">Audi</option>
</select>
```

### ▼ The `textarea` element

This is used to create a big text input area.

```
<textarea name="message" rows="10" cols="30">
The cat was playing in the garden.
</textarea>
```

The `rows` attribute specifies the visible number of lines in a text area. The `cols` attribute specifies the visible width of a text area.

#### ▼ The form `action` attribute

The action attribute defines the action to be performed when the form is submitted.

Usually, the form data is sent to a file on the server when the user clicks on the submit button.

```
<form action="/action_page.php">
  <label for="fname">First name:</label><input type="text">
  .
  .
</form>
```

## 3. Semantic Tags in HTML

Writing semantic markup means understanding the hierarchy of your content and how both users and machines will read it.



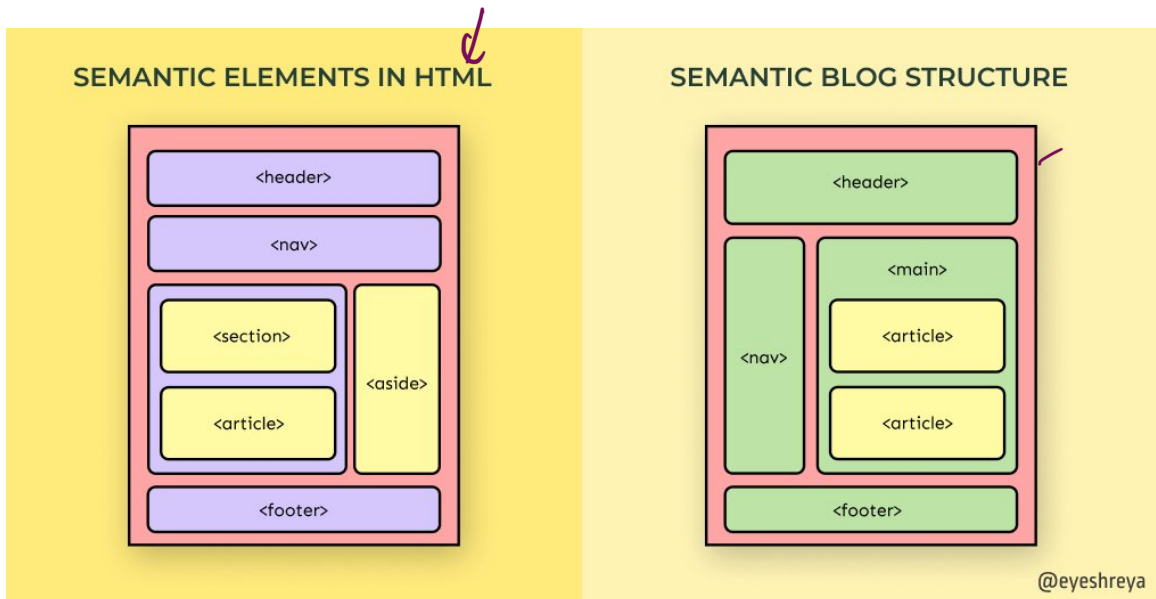
A semantic element clearly describes its meaning to both the browser and the developer.

- Examples of **non-semantic** elements: `<div>` and `<span>` - Tells nothing about its content.
- Examples of **semantic** elements: `<form>`, `<table>`, and `<article>` - Clearly defines its content.

## ▼ Common Semantic Elements

- `<article>` ✓
- `<aside>` ✓
- `<figcaption>` ✓
- `<figure>` ✓
- `<footer>` ✓
- `<header>` ✓
- `<main>` ✓
- `<nav>` ✓

- `<section>`



## Assignments

1. Extend our *Personal Website Project* to include these 2 sections:
  - a. Places I want to visit (with images)
  - b. My favorite Food Recipes (with images and recipes)
2. Make a Website where you teach about the concepts of Semantic Tags. Use Tables, Lists, Links, Images, etc.