What is the scoop with html   
<div>, <section>, and <article> elements?

My first exposure to HTML5 began at the beginning of this course. Most HTML5 and CSS topic made sense to me relatively quickly, but the conceptual differences between <<div>>, <article>, and <section> did not sink in a quickly.

# Introduction

HTML5 is a hypertext markup language introduced in 2014. Web browsers/search engines use HTML information to interpret content on web pages and return optimized search engine results.

HTML5 includes block-level elements (think of boxes stacked on top of one another) and semantic elements, which give meaning to content within an HTML document. Examples of block-level elements include: <p>, <h1> thru <h6>, <ol>, <ul>, <address>, and <blockquote>. Examples of semantic elements include: <footer>, <header>, <nav>, <aside>, <article>, and <section>.

# <div>

The <div> element has been around prior to the release of HTML5. Web developers use <div> elements to group elements and then style the <div> in cascading style sheets (CSS). Think of a <div> element as a division (or divisions) of the HTML document. Said another way, if you simply want something in the HTML document to look different, use a <div> element and then style with CSS.

A <div> element is not a sematic element; a <div> element is semantically neutral. A <div> element is a block-level element, which is why a <div> element is great for styling in CSS or serving up some JavaScript.

Prior to HTML5, web developers predominantly use the <div> element to create meaningful document areas like navigations, headers, and footers. In 2014, HTML5 introduced <nav>, <header>, and <footer> elements, but the <div> element did not go away because it still has use when a document division is necessary for styling or scripting purposes.

Example of a <div> element in action:

**<div id=”aDiv”>  
 <h2>Boomer’s Bar & Grill</h2>  
 <p>This is where information about Boomer’s Bar & Grill would go.</p>  
 <p>Perhaps there would be a paragraph about the owners.</p>  
 </div>**

# <article>

HTML5 introduced the <article> element, which is a semantic element; the <article> element gives meaning to groups of elements. Most commonly, the <article> element contains information that is independent from the rest of the web page. Just like an article in a magazine stands alone, so does the <article> element in HTML5.

Example an <article> used for a Web blog:

**<article>  
 <h1>Steph’s Web Blog</h1>  
 <p>Web blog content….</p>  
</article>**

# <section>

HTML5 introduced the <section> element. This semantic element contains chunks of related information, including multiple <article> elements. (Gasp!)

Use a <section> element over a <div> element if there is a genuine semantic difference for the content within the document.

Example an <article> used for to display multiple articles:

**<section>  
 <article>  
 <h1>June Edition of Life with Boomer</h1>  
 <p>June edition content</p>  
 </article>**

**<article>  
 <h1>July Edition of Life with Boomer</h1>  
 <p>July edition content</p>  
 </article>**

**<article>  
 <h1>August Edition of Life with Boomer</h1>  
 <p>August edition content</p>  
 </article>**

**</section>**

# conclusion

In conclusion, the <div> element should be used when you have elements that you would like to group in a container so you can style them efficiently in CSS. The <section> and <article> elements should be used for semantically meaningful content. The <article> element should contain content that is independent from the rest of the web page. The <section> element serves as semantically meaningful content grouping.