

When to use elements and when attributes is often a matter of taste. However, note that attributes cannot be nested.

### A.1.4 Comments

A comment is a piece of text that is to be ignored by the parser. It has the form

```
<!-- This is a comment -->
```

### A.1.5 Processing Instructions (PIs)

PIs provide a mechanism for passing information to an application about how to handle elements. The general form is

```
<?target instruction?>
```

For example,

```
<?stylesheet type="text/css" href="mystyle.css"?>
```

PIs offer procedural possibilities in an otherwise declarative environment.

### A.1.6 Well-Formed XML Documents

An XML document is well-formed if it is syntactically correct. The following are some syntactic rules:

- There is only one outermost element in the document (called the *root element*).
- Each element contains an opening and a corresponding closing tag.
- Tags may not overlap, as in  

```
<author><name>Lee Hong</author></name>.
```
- Attributes within an element have unique names.
- Element and tag names must be permissible.