HOW PAGES USE STRUCTURE

Think about the stories you read in a newspaper: for each story, there will be a headline, some text, and possibly some images. If the article is a long piece, there may be subheadings that split the story into separate sections or quotes from those involved. Structure helps readers understand the stories in the newspaper.

The structure is very similar when a news story is viewed online (although it may also feature audio or video). This is illustrated on the right with a copy of a newspaper alongside the corresponding article on its website.

Now think about a very different type of document — an insurance form. Insurance forms often have headings for different sections, and each section contains a list of questions with areas for you to fill in details or checkboxes to tick. Again, the structure is very similar online.

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Interview Rio Caraeff

Vevo revolutionary

Universal's former mobile chief is leading the music industry's fight to shake up online video. He reveals his frustration with MTV, and says why no one need own music if his site succeeds. Interview by Mark Sweney

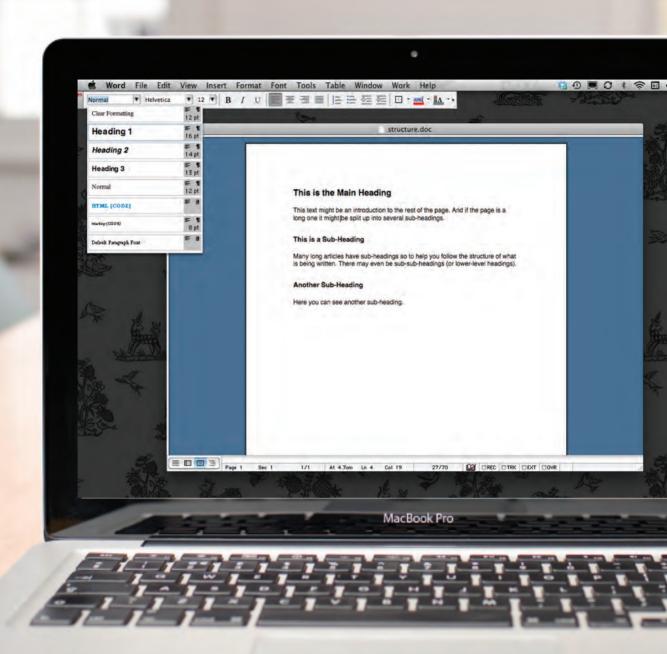


STRUCTURING WORD DOCUMENTS

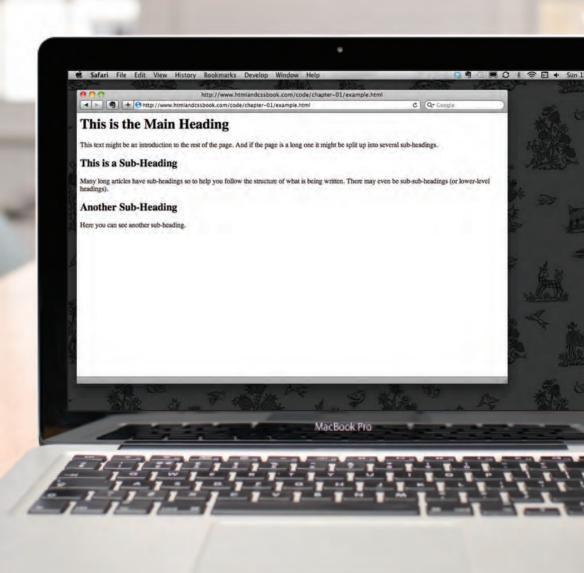
The use of headings and subheadings in any document often reflects a hierarchy of information. For example, a document might start with a large heading, followed by an introduction or the most important information.

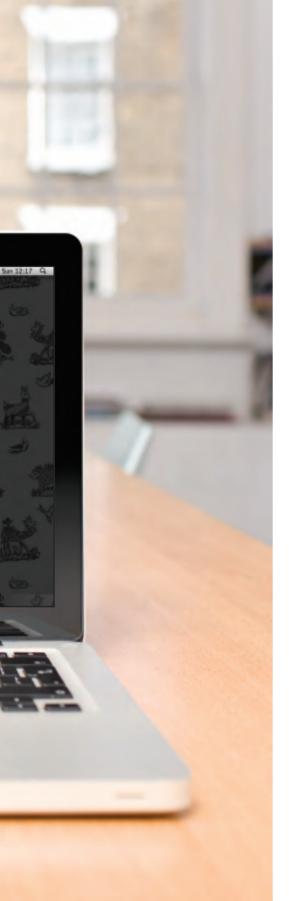
This might be expanded upon under subheadings lower down on the page. When using a word processor to create a document, we separate out the text to give it structure. Each topic might have a new paragraph, and each section can have a heading to describe what it covers.

On the right, you can see a simple document in Microsoft Word. The different styles for the document, such as different levels of heading, are shown in the drop down box. If you regularly use Word, you might have also used the formatting toolbar or palette to do this.



On the previous page you saw how structure was added to a Word document to make it easier to understand. We use structure in the same way when writing web pages.





HTML DESCRIBES THE STRUCTURE OF PAGES

In the browser window you can see a web page that features exactly the same content as the Word document you met on the page 18. To describe the structure of a web page, we add code to the words we want to appear on the page.

You can see the HTML code for this page below. Don't worry about what the code means yet. We start to look at it in more detail on the next page. Note that the HTML code is in blue, and the text you see on screen is in black.

```
<html>
 <body>
   <h1>This is the Main Heading</h1>
   This text might be an introduction to the rest of
      the page. And if the page is a long one it might
      be split up into several sub-headings.
   <h2>This is a Sub-Heading</h2>
   Many long articles have sub-headings so to help
      you follow the structure of what is being written.
      There may even be sub-sub-headings (or lower-level
      headings).
   <h2>Another Sub-Heading</h2>
   Here you can see another sub-heading.
 </body>
</html>
```

The HTML code (in blue) is made up of characters that live inside angled brackets — these are called HTML elements. Elements are usually made up of two tags: an opening tag and a closing tag. (The closing tag has an extra forward slash in it.) Each HTML element tells the browser something about the information that sits between its opening and closing tags.

HTML USES ELEMENTS TO DESCRIBE THE STRUCTURE OF PAGES

Let's look closer at the code from the last page. There are several different elements. Each element has an opening tag and a closing tag.

CODE

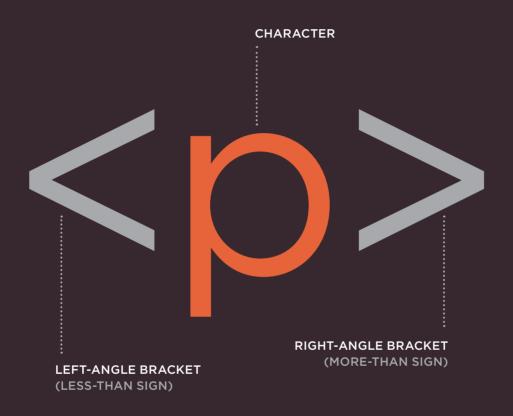


Tags act like containers. They tell you something about the information that lies between their opening and closing tags.

DESCRIPTION

	The opening httml> tag indicates that anything between it and a closing https://www.ntml> tag indicates that anything between it and a closing https://www.ntml tag is HTML code.
	The <body> tag indicates that anything between it and the closing </body> tag should be shown inside the main browser window.
••••••	Words between <h1> and </h1> are a main heading.
	A paragraph of text appears between these ⟨p⟩ and ⟨/p⟩ tags.
	Words between <h2> and </h2> form a sub-heading.
	Here is another paragraph between opening and closing tags.
	Another sub-heading inside <h2> and </h2> tags.
•	Another paragraph inside and tags.
	The closing tag indicates the end of what should appear in the main browser window.
	The closing tag indicates that it is the end of the HTML code

A CLOSER LOOK AT TAGS

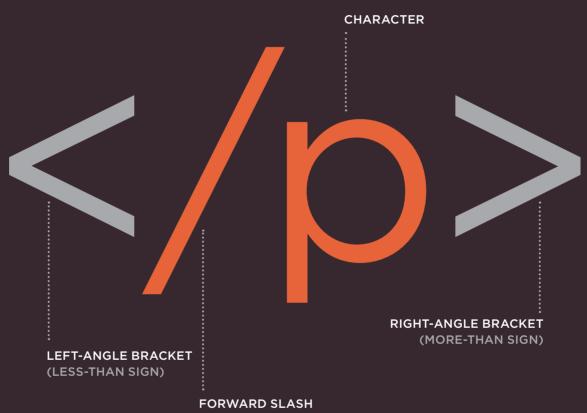


OPENING TAG -

The characters in the brackets indicate the tag's purpose.

For example, in the tags above the p stands for paragraph.

The closing tag has a forward slash after the the < symbol.



CLOSING TAG

The terms "tag" and "element" are often used interchangeably.

Strictly speaking, however, an element comprises the opening

tag and the closing tag and any content that lies between them.

ATTRIBUTES TELL US MORE ABOUT ELEMENTS

Attributes provide additional information about the contents of an element. They appear on the opening tag of the element and are made up of two parts: a name and a value, separated by an equals sign.



The attribute name indicates what kind of extra information you are supplying about the element's content. It should be written in lowercase.

The **value** is the information or setting for the attribute. It should be placed in double quotes. Different attributes can have different values.

Here an attribute called lang is used to indicate the language used in this element. The value of this attribute on this page specifies it is in US English.

HTML5 allows you to use uppercase attribute names and omit the quotemarks, but this is not recommended.



The majority of attributes can only be used on certain elements, although a few attributes (such as lang) can appear on any element. Most attribute values are either pre-defined or follow a stipulated format. We will look at the permitted values as we introduce each new attribute.

The value of the lang attribute is an abbreviated way of specifying which language is used inside the element that all browsers understand.

BODY, HEAD & TITLE

<body>

You met the <body> element in the first example we created. Everything inside this element is shown inside the main browser window.

<head>

Before the <body> element you will often see a <head> element. This contains information about the page (rather than information that is shown within the main part of the browser window that is highlighted in blue on the opposite page). You will usually find a <title> element inside the <head> element.

<title>

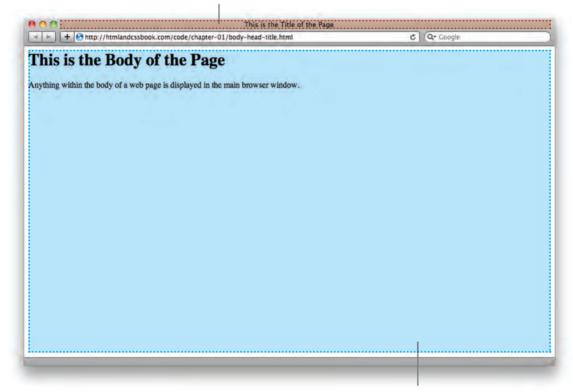
The contents of the <title> element are either shown in the top of the browser, above where you usually type in the URL of the page you want to visit, or on the tab for that page (if your browser uses tabs to allow you to view multiple pages at the same time).

Anything within the body of a well page is displayed to the train between window.

RESULT

This is the Body of the Page

Anything written between the <title> tags will appear in the title bar (or tabs) at the top of the browser window, highlighted in orange here.



Anything written between the <body> tags will appear in the main browser window, highlighted in blue here.

You may know that HTML stands for HyperText Markup Language. The HyperText part refers to the fact that HTML allows you to create links that allow visitors to move from one

page to another quickly and easily. A markup language allows you to annotate text, and these annotations provide additional meaning to the contents of a document. If you think of a web

page, we add code around the original text we want to display and the browser then uses the code to display the page correctly. So the tags we add are the markup.