

## What should people know about HTML5?

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So, HTML5 is an iteration of the HTML specification. So, HTML has undergone many specifications over its history, from 4 to 5. And 5 is the most recent rules used for writing HTML.

There's a couple of really important things about HTML5. The first one is that there were new tags introduced that dealt with multimedia. So, you have tags like video and audio and canvas. They allow you to embed multimedia elements directly into the page without having any external support. So, for the first time, you could finally inject a video without having to use a ton of JavaScript in order to have it play. And that's native to the browser.

The second thing, which I think is the most important thing about HTML5, is the way that it handles semantic HTML. So, HTML5 introduced a few more elements that were semantic only, meaning they only impart meaning to the page. For example, you might have a tag like a div, which we're all familiar with. And a div doesn't do anything meaningfully. It just separates sections of the page structurally. It has no meaning. So, it's presentational.

But HTML5 introduced elements like section, for example, that are only used for meaning. So, for the first time, you could have a single page that had many different sections to it. These elements that have meaning are also called sectioning elements.

So, when you introduce a sectioning element to your page, say a section, which is just called section, the tag, then you can have a whole new heading hierarchy in that section. And the page--the browser views that section of the page as its own document. So, instead of there being just one document with multiple heading levels (so h1 through h6), now, each section of the page can have its own sets of heading levels.

So, if you were thinking of a page, like, say, a homepage that has a bunch of blog posts on it--maybe it has an aside that's kind of like, you know, a tip, right? That page now has heading levels h1 through h6 for the entire document. And then if--when you get to those blog posts, each of those blog posts might be wrapped in an article tag. And the article tag is telling the browser, "Hey, this is its own document, this reference inside of the page, and it has its own heading levels, h1 to h6," which is strange because if you think of a lot of the SEO advice out there in terms of how to deal with heading levels, the common advice is: "Oh, you should only have one

h1 on the page because that defines the most important heading on the page." But in HTML5, that's not true.

So, in HTML5, you could have 40 h1s on the page, and that's actually valid and correct because, say, you have 40 blog posts listed on your page. They each have their own heading levels. So they can each have an h1 to h6. And they could even have those h1s to h6 wrapped in a header.

So, essentially, what you have to start doing in HTML5 is thinking about your page not as one document or one page in a book but essentially a directory, which could have multiple pages in it, you know. It's allowing you to define your document in a more meaningful way.

The reason why this can be important outside of your document is that search engines get more information about how your page is structured. And if your page is consumed by other services through APIs, then they understand how your content is structured just by looking at the markup.