

World of HTML Tables

In this lesson, we welcome you to the world of HTML tables.
Let's enter!

WE'LL COVER THE FOLLOWING



- **Listing 3-9:** Making use of tables



`<table>` in HTML5



HTML5 has *versatile* support for tabular data. The markup language always treated tables as first-class citizens when rendering content, but for a long time, tables had been considered by web designers mainly as tools for establishing the layout of a web page.

For example, a page with a standard header, footer, navigation bar, and content pane (as shown in the image below) was defined with tables, as shown in Listing 3-9 below:

Listing 3-9: Making use of tables

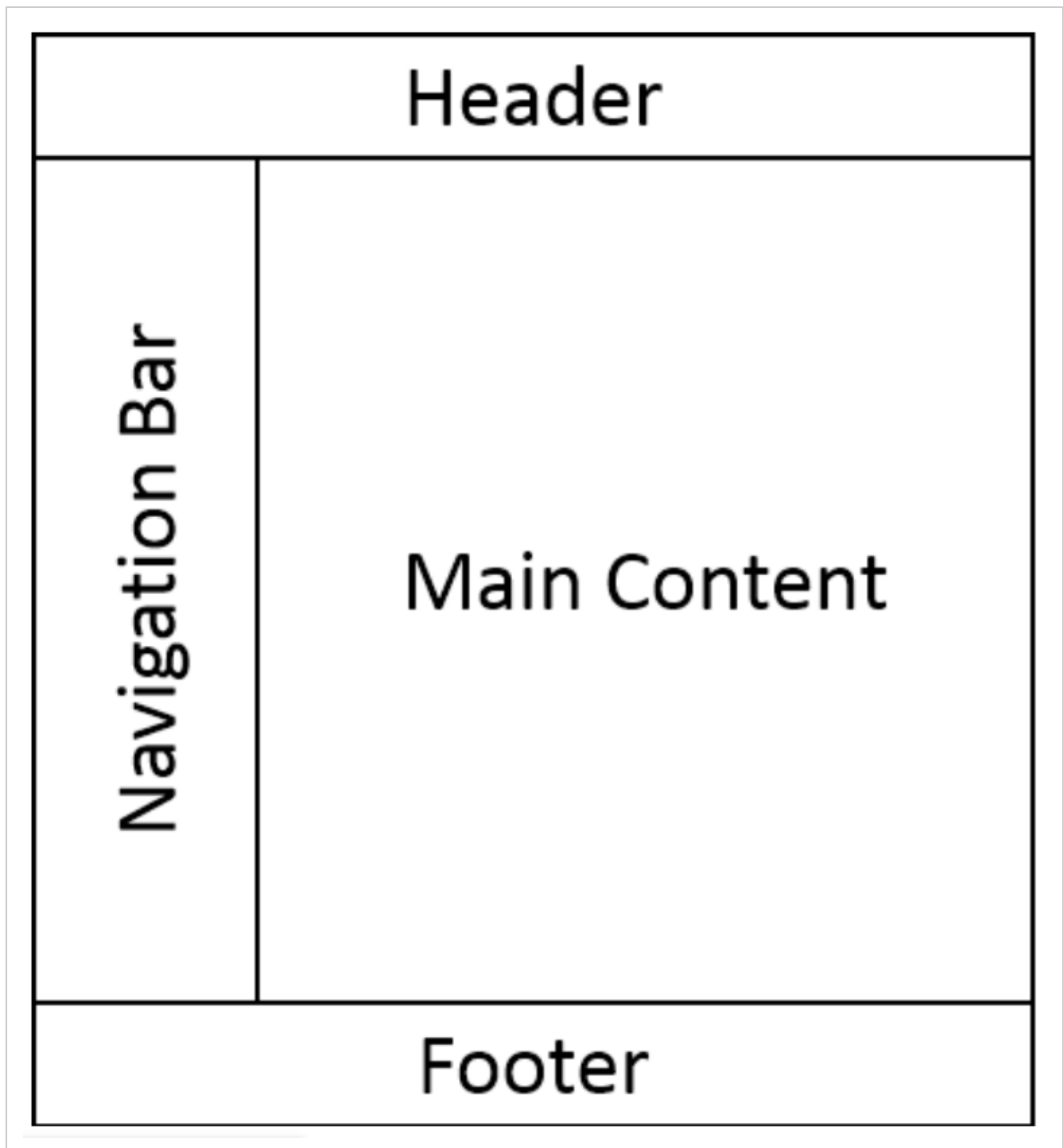
```
<html>
<head>
  <title>Page Layout with Tables</title>
</head>
```

```
</head>
<body>
  <table border="1" width="720px">
    <tr height="80px">
      <td colspan="2">
        <!-- Header placeholder-->
        <p>Header</p>
      </td>
    </tr>
    <tr height="600px">
      <td width="200px">
        <!-- Navigation placeholder-->
        <p>Navigation</p>
      </td>
      <td>
        <!-- Main Content placeholder-->
        <p>Main Content</p>
      </td>
    </tr>
    <tr height="60px">
      <td colspan="2">
        <!-- Footer placeholder-->
        <p>Footer</p>
      </td>
    </tr>
  </table>
</body>
</html>
```

Table definitions use the `<table>` tag that encloses a number of `<tr>` tags, each of them representing a table row. Rows contain cells—defined by the `<td>` tag, and these cells contain the actual content.

This sample contains only placeholders, but real websites put long markups in each table cell to define their content.

As you can see, height and width attributes are used to specify table row and cell dimensions; the `colspan` attribute defines that the table cell for Header and Footer should span two columns, the Navigation Bar and Main Content.



Simple wireframe of a web page

With HTML5, forget about this practice! The styling capabilities provided by CSS3 offer more intuitive and flexible solutions to establish the layout of a great web page.

Just think about how difficult it could be to rearrange such a table layout where hundreds of markup lines could be located between `<td>` and `</td>`.

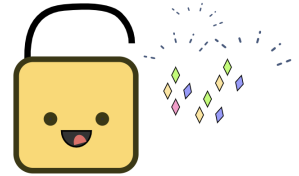
Another big bottleneck of the table-based layout is that providing a dynamic layout, for example, selecting a skin from a variety of predefined themes,

could be challenging.

So, HTML5 uses tables only for their real application: **presenting tabular data.** :)

Achievement unlocked! 🍰

Congratulations! You've learned how to make use of HTML tables!



Great work!

Give yourself a round of applause! :)

In the *next lesson*, we'll study some table content, style, and semantics.

Stay tuned! :)