

# Headers

In this lesson, we'll learn how to add headers in our HTML page.  
Let's begin! :)

## WE'LL COVER THE FOLLOWING



- Listing-03-03: Headers with no style added
- Listing-03-04: Headers with style added



There are **two ways** you can use headers in HTML5:

- *First*, the header can be used as the **title of your web page**.
- *Second*, you can use a header as a **title of some content**. In this context, you can have multiple headers, each associated with its related content.

You can even combine these aspects, so on a web page, you may apply a **single header** for the page and **multiple headers** for separate content sections.

In Listing 3-2, the `<header>` tag was used as a content-related header. It was nested into the `<article>` tag, as this code snippet shows:

```
<body>
  <article>
    <header>
      <h1>Visual Studio Platform and Extensibility</h1>
      <p class="byLine">by Istvan Novak</p>
    </header>
    <!-- ... -->
  </article>
  <!-- ... -->
</body>
```



If it were a page with multiple articles, you could create a separate header for each article plus a page header, as shown in Listing 3-3.

## Listing-03-03: Headers with no style added #

See the output in action, both in the **output tab** and the **host link** provided below.

If you make any changes to your code, the live-server will detect these. Just press run as there is no need to restart the server!

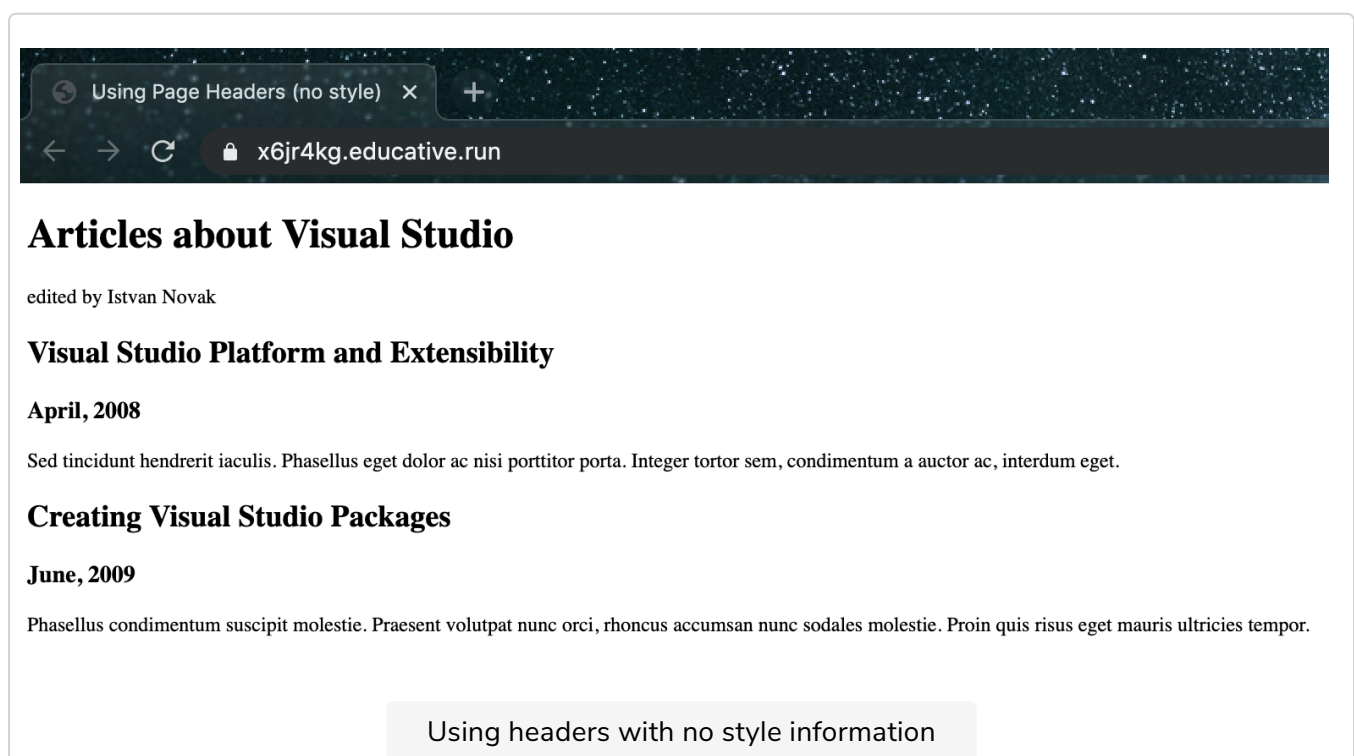
```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
  <title>Using Page Headers (no style)</title>
</head>
<body>
  <header class="pageHeader">
    <h1>Articles about Visual Studio</h1>
    <p class="byLine">edited by Istvan Novak</p>
  </header>
  <article>
    <header class="articleHeader">
      <h2>Visual Studio Platform and Extensibility</h2>
      <h3>April, 2008</h3>
    </header>
    <div class="mainContent">
      <p>
        Sed tincidunt hendrerit iaculis. Phasellus eget
        dolor ac nisi porttitor porta. Integer tortor sem,
        condimentum a auctor ac, interdum eget.
      </p>
    </div>
  </article>
</body>
```

```

</div>
</article>
<article>
  <header class="articleHeader">
    <h2>Creating Visual Studio Packages</h2>
    <h3>June, 2009</h3>
  </header>
  <div class="mainContent">
    <p>
      Phasellus condimentum suscipit molestie. Praesent
      volutpat nunc orci, rhoncus accumsan nunc sodales
      molestie. Proin quis risus eget mauris ultricies tempor.
    </p>
  </div>
</article>
</body>
</html>

```

As you see, this code sample does not contain any style information, so displaying it produces the same result as if you omitted the semantic tags (`<article>`, `<header>`) from the page source.



**NOTE:** Although you can create a page title with the `<header>` tag, it does not substitute the `<title>` tag in the HTML markup. The page title is a part of the content, `<title>` is a kind of metadata and it is mandatory by the HTML standard.

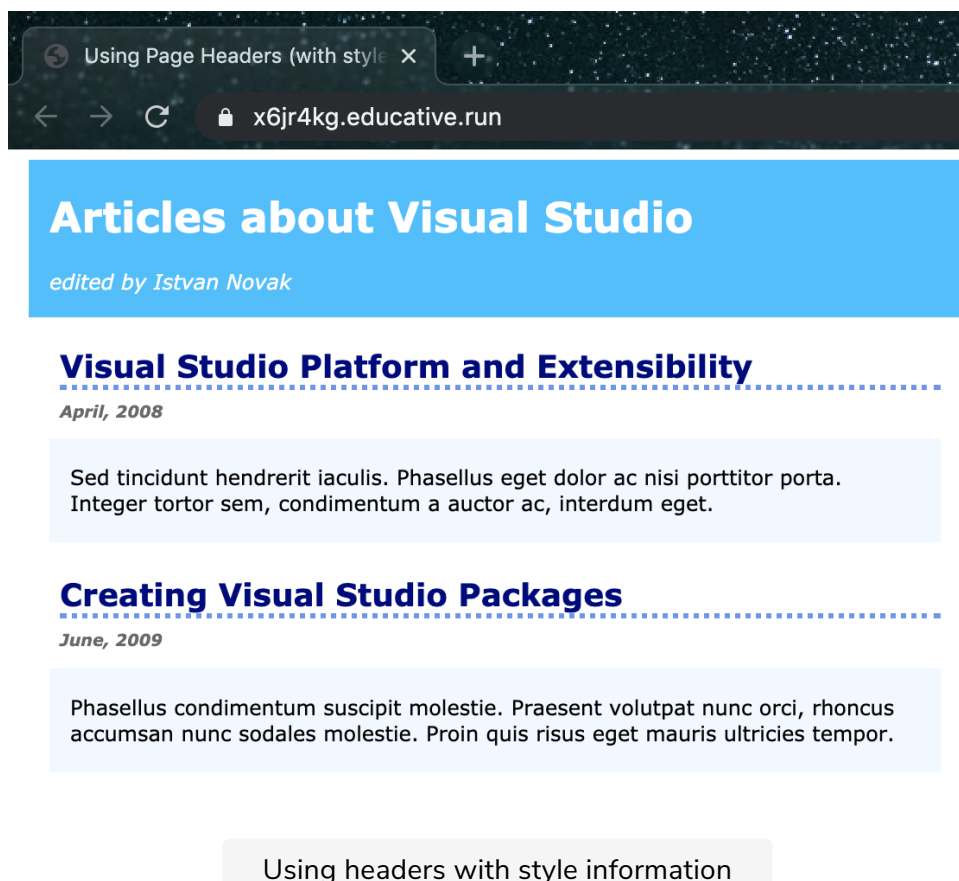
As the image above shows, you have no visual clue about headers, and so you can distinguish between the page title and article title information only by the

text size. To emphasize headers visually, you must provide styling information.

Listing 3-3 is prepared for styling simply by using semantic elements. However, the page designer must be able to assign separate style for page header and article headers, so those are distinguished with the value of the class attribute:

```
<body>
  <header class="pageHeader">...</header>
  <article>
    <header class="articleHeader">...</header>
    <!-- ... -->
  </article>
  <!-- ... -->
</body>
```

With styling applied, you can visually distinguish between page and article headers, as shown in the image below:



 **NOTE:** You can find the complete code that renders the image below in the Listing 03.04 below.

## Listing-03-04: Headers with style added #

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
  <title>Using Page Headers (with style)</title>
  <style>
    body {
      width: 720px;
      margin-left: 16px;
      font-family: Verdana, Arial, sans-serif;
    }
    .pageHeader {
      background-color: deepskyblue;
      padding: 2px 16px;
    }
    .articleHeader {
      margin-left: 8px;
      padding: 2px 16px;
    }
    h1 {
      color: white;
    }
    .byLine {
      color: white;
      font-style: italic;
    }
    .mainContent {
      background-color: aliceblue;
      padding: 4px 16px;
      margin: 4px 16px;
    }
    h2 {
      color: navy;
      border-bottom: 4px dotted cornflowerblue;
    }
    h3 {
      color: dimgray;
      font-size: 0.8em;
      font-style: italic;
      margin-top: -12px;
      margin-bottom: 8px;
    }
  </style>
</head>
<body>
  <header class="pageHeader">
    <h1>Articles about Visual Studio</h1>
    <p class="byLine">edited by Istvan Novak</p>
  </header>
  <article>
    <header class="articleHeader">
      <h2>Visual Studio Platform and Extensibility</h2>
      <h3>April, 2008</h3>
    </header>
    <div class="mainContent">
      <p>
```

```

        Sed tincidunt hendrerit iaculis. Phasellus eget
        dolor ac nisi porttitor porta. Integer tortor sem,
        condimentum a auctor ac, interdum eget.
    </p>
</div>
</article>
<article>
    <header class="articleHeader">
        <h2>Creating Visual Studio Packages</h2>
        <h3>June, 2009</h3>
    </header>
    <div class="mainContent">
        <p>
            Phasellus condimentum suscipit molestie. Praesent
            volutpat nunc orci, rhoncus accumsan nunc sodales
            molestie. Proin quis risus eget mauris ultricies tempor.
        </p>
    </div>
</article>
</body>
</html>

```

If you have a closer look at article headers, you can see that they are composed of a title and a subtitle:

```

<header class="articleHeader">
    <h2>Creating Visual Studio packages</h2>
    <h3>June, 2009</h3>
</header>

```



This markup is a bit confusing, because it suggests that the article has a title (the `<h2>` tag) that is immediately followed by an embedded section (the `<h3>` tag).

Let's assume that an external entity or service wants to generate an outline of your page. Should it use only the `<h2>` heading, or the `<h3>` heading as well in the outline? Is `<h3>` a subtitle, or a title of a subsection?

The `<hgroup>` HTML tag helps answering this question. By surrounding the title part of the header with `<hgroup>` you can sign that only the top-level heading should be considered as a title:

```

<header class="articleHeader">
    <hgroup>
        <h2>Creating Visual Studio Packages</h2>
        <h3>June, 2009</h3>
    </hgroup>
</header>

```



At first sight, `<hgroup>` seems to complicate the code because you may think it adds a new level of nesting. But examine this markup:

```
<header class="articleHeader">
  <hgroup>
    <h2>Creating Visual Studio Packages</h2>
    <h3>June, 2009</h3>
  </hgroup>
  <p class="author">John Doe</p>
</header>
```



This code helps to highlight the part of the header that should be considered in outline generation and separates the part that is just descriptive information in your header.

 Show Useful Info

**Achievement unlocked!** 

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

Top notch work! Give yourself a round of applause! :)

In the *next lesson*, we'll meet HTML footers.

See you there! :)

