HTML Block and Inline Element

Every HTML element has a default display value depending on what type of element it is. The default display value for most elements is block or inline.

Block-level Elements

A block-level element always starts on a new line and takes up the full width available (stretches out to the left and right as far as it can).

The <div> element is a block-level element.

Examples of block-level elements:

* <div>
* <h1> - <h6>
* <p>
* <form>

Inline Elements

An inline element does not start on a new line and only takes up as much width as necessary.

This is an inline <span> element inside a paragraph.

Examples of inline elements:

* <span>
* <a>
* <img>

The <div> Element

The <div> element is often used as a container for other HTML elements.

The <div> element has no required attributes, but both **style** and **class** are common.

When used together with CSS, the <div> element can be used to style blocks of content:

Example

<div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 20px;">
  <h2>London</h2>
  <p>London is the capital city of England. It is the most populous city in the United Kingdom, with a metropolitan area of over 13 million inhabitants. </p>
</div>

The <span> Element

The <span> element is often used as a container for some text.

The <span> element has no required attributes, but both **style** and **class** are common.

When used together with CSS, the <span> element can be used to style parts of the text:

Example

<h1>My <span style="color:red">Important</span> Heading</h1>

HTML Grouping Tags

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Tag** | **Description** |
| [<div>](https://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_div.asp) | Defines a section in a document (block-level) |
| [<span>](https://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_span.asp) | Defines a section in a document (inline) |

HTML The class Attribute

The HTML class attribute makes it possible to define equal styles for elements with the same class name.

Example

<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
<style>

.cities {
    background-color: black;
    color: white;
    margin: 20px 0 20px 0;
    padding: 20px;
}
</style>
</head>

body>
<div class="cities">
<h2>London</h2>
<p>London is the capital of England. It is the most populous city in the United Kingdom, with a metropolitan area of over 13 million inhabitants. </p>
</div>
<div class="cities">
<h2>Paris</h2>
<p>Paris is the capital and most populous city of France.</p>
</div>
</body>
</html>

## London

London is the capital of England. It is the most populous city in the United Kingdom, with a metropolitan area of over 13 million inhabitants.

## Paris

Paris is the capital and most populous city of France.

Using class Attribute on Inline Elements

The HTML class attribute can also be used for inline elements:

Example

<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
<style>
.note {
    font-size: 120%;
    color: red;
}
</style>
</head>
<body>

<h1>My <span class="note">Important</span> Heading</h1>
<p>This is some <span class="note">important</span> text.</p>

</body>
</html>

# My Important Heading

This is some important text.

HTML Head

The HTML <head> Element

The **<head>** element is a container for metadata (data about data) and is placed between the <html> tag and the <body> tag.

HTML metadata is data about the HTML document. Metadata is not displayed.

Metadata typically define the document title, character set, styles, links, scripts, and other meta information.

The following tags describe metadata: <title>, <style>, <meta>, <link>, <script>, and <base>.

The HTML <style> Element

The **<style>** element is used to define style information for a single HTML page:

Example

<style>
  body {background-color: powderblue;}
  h1 {color: red;}
  p {color: blue;}
</style>

The HTML <link> Element

The **<link>** element is used to link to external style sheets:

Example

<link rel="stylesheet" href="mystyle.css">

The HTML <meta> Element

The **<meta>** element is used to specify which character set is used, page description, keywords, author, and other metadata.

Metadata is used by browsers (how to display content), by search engines (keywords), and other web services.

Define the character set used:

<meta charset="UTF-8">

Define a description of your web page:

<meta name="description" content="Free Web tutorials">

Define keywords for search engines:

<meta name="keywords" content="HTML, CSS, XML, JavaScript">

Define the author of a page:

<meta name="author" content="John Doe">

Refresh document every 30 seconds:

<meta http-equiv="refresh" content="30">

Example of <meta> tags:

Example

<meta charset="UTF-8">
<meta name="description" content="Free Web tutorials">
<meta name="keywords" content="HTML,CSS,XML,JavaScript">
<meta name="author" content="John Doe">

Setting The Viewport

HTML5 introduced a method to let web designers take control over the viewport, through the <meta> tag.

The viewport is the user's visible area of a web page. It varies with the device, and will be smaller on a mobile phone than on a computer screen.

You should include the following <meta> viewport element in all your web pages:

<meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">

A <meta> viewport element gives the browser instructions on how to control the page's dimensions and scaling.

The width=device-width part sets the width of the page to follow the screen-width of the device (which will vary depending on the device).

The initial-scale=1.0 part sets the initial zoom level when the page is first loaded by the browser.

Here is an example of a web page *without* the viewport meta tag, and the same web page *with* the viewport meta tag:

[

**Without the viewport meta tag**](https://www.w3schools.com/html/example_withoutviewport.htm)

[

**With the viewport meta tag**](https://www.w3schools.com/html/example_withviewport.htm)

The HTML <script> Element

The <script> element is used to define client-side JavaScripts.

This JavaScript writes "Hello JavaScript!" into an HTML element with id="demo":

Example

<script>
function myFunction {
    document.getElementById("demo").innerHTML = "Hello JavaScript!";
}
</script>

**Tip:** To learn all about JavaScript, visit our [JavaScript Tutorial](https://www.w3schools.com/js/default.asp).

The HTML <base> Element

The <base> element specifies the base URL and base target for all relative URLs in a page:

Example

<base href="https://www.w3schools.com/images/" target="\_blank">

Omitting <html>, <head> and <body>?

According to the HTML5 standard; the <html>, the <body>, and the <head> tag can be omitted.

The following code will validate as HTML5:

Example

<!DOCTYPE html>
<title>Page Title</title>

<h1>This is a heading</h1>
<p>This is a paragraph.</p>

HTML head Elements

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Tag** | **Description** |
| [<head>](https://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_head.asp) | Defines information about the document |
| [<title>](https://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_title.asp) | Defines the title of a document |
| [<base>](https://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_base.asp) | Defines a default address or a default target for all links on a page |
| [<link>](https://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_link.asp) | Defines the relationship between a document and an external resource |
| [<meta>](https://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_meta.asp) | Defines metadata about an HTML document |
| [<script>](https://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_script.asp) | Defines a client-side script |
| [<style>](https://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_style.asp) | Defines style information for a document |