

Joy of Code <Intro To HTML>

This is an excerpt from my online class, Intro To HTML. To see more about it go to joyofcode.com or contact me, Bud Kraus, bud@joyofcode.com or 9732351452

[Lesson 9: Grouping Elements](#)

General Grouping Tags

What I love about these elements is that they allow designers and developers the way to provide rich semantical markup for their web pages. Elements such as header and footer are easy to use because they're easy to understand. Most people know what the header or footer is of a web page (something that most pages have - or should have).

The elements discussed below - and the ones on the pages which follow - help describe what the content of a web page is.

All of these elements can be used more than once on a page. Take **<header>**. A page can have a header to start the document but different parts (or sections) of a page can have a header as well. Same can be said about sidebars, navigation interfaces and articles as each of those can have a header and a footer as well.

Remember - and I promise not to say this again - you won't see a difference in your pages when using these elements but you already know that HTML is not about how a page looks!!

The section Tag

The section tag is a generic element which is used to group different parts of your page. You can use it as many times as needed on a page. You might even find the need to divide (nest) a section inside of another section.

Sections frequently contain heading tags, navigation elements, contact information and quite possibly a sidebar.

I use the section tag as a super duper grouper in that it will certainly wrap around (contain or group) at least two or more html elements.

Here's more really good information on [The Section Element](#).

The aside Tag

The aside element is most often used to define a part (or parts) of your page which is secondary to the importance of the main content of your page. It frequently - but not always - will contain sidebar areas, navigation, advertising and other content that is not the main focus of the page.

You may find the need to use the header and or footer elements as well within the aside element. Heading tags - from h1 to h6 - may be used to define headings and sub-heads within the aside element.

Let me show you how I've used **<section>** and **<aside>** in something that is pretty familiar to me and to you if you have looked at the source code of just about any page from this class such as a page you've probably just seen, [Lesson 9: Grouping Elements](#).

Pages

1. [Lesson 9: Grouping Elements](#)
2. **General Grouping Tags**
3. [What About div And s;an?](#)
4. [Form Grouping Tags](#)
5. [Data Table Grouping Tags](#)

[Lab 9: First Grouping](#)

Code View

```
<section>
```

```
<h1>Lesson 9: Grouping Elements</h1>
```

```
<p>Truth be told you've been using HTML elements to group content all along. While this lesson will show you many new grouping elements the idea should be nothing new to you.</p>
```

```
...
```

```
<p>Many of these elements in this lesson are new to HTML and are part of the HTML5 specs. If you are familiar with the div tag - which has done the heavy lifting of grouping HTML elements for years - you'll see the reduced role div will play in the future. And that's a good thing!!</p>
```

```
<p>In this lesson we'll go over: </p>
```

```
<ul>
```

```
<li>General Grouping Tags</li>
```

```
<li>What About div And Span?</li>
```

```
<li>Form Group Tags</li>
```

```
<li>Data Table Grouping Tags</li>
```

```
</ul>
```

```
<p>Containing Containers!!</p>
```

```
<a href="20.html">Time To Learn About Using Grouping Elements</a>
```

```
</section>
```

```
<aside>
```

```
<h1>Pages</h1>
```

```
<ol>
```

```
<li><strong>Lesson 9: Grouping Elements</strong></li>
```

```
<li><a href="20.html">General Grouping Tags</a></li>
```

```
<li><a href="30.html">What About div And Span?</a></li>
```

```
<li><a href="40.html">Form Grouping Tags</a></li>
```

```
<li><a href="50.html">Data Table Grouping Tags</a></li>
```

```
</ol>
```

```
<p><a href=" ../lab9.html">Lab 9: First Grouping</a></p>
```

```
</aside>
```

No reason to give you a Browser View here as there isn't anything to see. Focus on how I grouped my content into, in this case, two main areas, section and aside

Like most of these grouping elements, the context in which they are used is all important. Here is more really good information on [The Aside Element](#).

The nav Tag

The nav tag is an excellent way to define the group of elements which make up your navigation interface (or list of links). You can use `<nav>` more than once on a page but don't get trapped into thinking that every link needs to be wrapped inside the `<nav>` container. For example, if you've got a single link in a paragraph you do not need to use the nav element.

Going back to my example here's how I used `<nav>` in `<aside>` which serves as my sidebar.

Code View

```
<aside>
<h1>Pages</h1>
<nav>
<ol>
<li><strong>Lesson 9: Grouping Elements</strong></li>
<li><a href="20.html">General Grouping Tags</a></li>
<li><a href="30.html">What About div And Span?</a></li>
<li><a href="40.html">Form Grouping Tags</a></li>
<li><a href="50.html">Data Table Grouping Tags</a></li>
</ol>
</nav>
<p><a href=" ../lab9.html">Lab 9: First Grouping</a></p>
</aside>
```

The header And footer Tags

It's easy to understand that the top and bottom areas of a web page can be thought of as a header and footer, respectively. Both **<header>** and **<footer>** do a great job grouping such content.

But headers and footers can also be used within other parts of your web doc. A section, aside or article element (as you'll see in the final example) can have it's own header and/or footer too.

The hgroup Tag

I think of **<hgroup>** as a sub section to a header element . I don't always use it but when it makes sense to define a sub group I do.

Here is how I coded the header for all five pages of our lab project for this class:

Code View

```
<header>
<hgroup>
<h1>In My Garden</h1>
<h2>Getting Addicted To Growing Good Things To Eat</h2>
</hgroup>

</header>
```

The article Tag

The article element is used in recognition of the fact that many of today's web pages are not made so much as they are assembled using content from another site.

Assembled? Content made be pulled using an RSS feed from one page to another. That process of syndicating content is wide spread and if you are not sure you've seen this you certainly have if you've ever used Facebook, Twitter or LinkedIn. It's also used on many blogs that share content from another site.

Speaking of blogs, many blog pages have one or more articles such as the blog page we are making in the lab. If you think of content that one can pull from your site and be "pasted" into a page on another site then article is a good way to create content that will stand on it's own.

Here's the example you'll be doing in the upcoming lab:

Code View

```
<article>
```

```
<header>
```

```
<h1>Keeping Out The Pests</h1>
```

```
<p>by Bud Kraus | Published July 1</p>
```

```
</header>
```

```
<p>No doubt, one of the biggest hassles I've had over the years is keeping out the animals that I don't want in my garden. Bunny rabbits, gophers and squirrels have not always understood that I don't labor for their benefit. <a href="#">See More</a></p>
```

```
<section>
```

```
<h2>Subscribe</h2>
```

```
<p>If you like what you are reading then give me your email address. Every time I add an new article to my blog I will let you know as soon as it is published.</p>
```

```
<form>
```

```
<label>Your Name<br />
```

```
<input type="text" name="name" placeholder="Type your name here." /></label>
```

```
<label>Email Address<br />
```

```
<input type="email" name="email" placeholder="Email Address" /></label>
```

```
<input type="submit" value="submit" />
```

```
</form>
```

```
</section>
```

```
</article>
```

Even though this is just one of three articles in the [blog.html](#) page the markup will allow it to stand on it's own if it were found on someone else's blog. Think of `<article>` as `<body>` and if the markup is good - if you have made a well formed article - you've done a good job for yourself, a client and the web.

Don't miss the fact I used `<header>` within this article. As I mentioned `<header>` and `<footer>` can be used within grouping elements - not just once on a page.

PHEW!! That was a ton but here's some really good info on [the article element](#).

[Take A Nap But Then Go On](#)