

HTML Elements

HTML documents are defined by HTML elements.

An HTML element is everything from the start tag to the end tag:

Start tag *	Element content	End tag *
<p>	This is a paragraph	</p>
	This is a link	

* The start tag is often called the **opening tag**. The end tag is often called the **closing tag**.

HTML Element Syntax

- An HTML element starts with a **start tag / opening tag**
- An HTML element ends with an **end tag / closing tag**
- The **element content** is everything between the start and the end tag
- Some HTML elements have **empty content**
- Empty elements are **closed in the start tag**
- Most HTML elements can have **attributes**

HTML Document Example

```
<html>

<body>
<p>This is my first paragraph.</p>
</body>

</html>
```

The example above contains 3 HTML elements.

HTML Example Explained

The<p> element:

```
<p>This is my first paragraph.</p>
```

Empty HTML Elements

HTML elements with no content are called empty elements. Empty elements can be closed in the start tag.

is an empty element without a closing tag (the

tag defines a line break). In XHTML, XML, and future versions of HTML, all elements must be closed. Adding a slash to the start tag, like

, is the proper way of closing empty elements, accepted by HTML, XHTML and XML. Even if

works in all browsers, writing

instead is more future proof.