HTML Tags

Introduction

Welcome to the lesson about the HTML tags. I wanted to take a moment to have a closer look at HTML tags you might see when you inspect a page so that it is easier for you to target these elements and basically understand what you see.

In the previous lesson, I gave you an overview of the basic structure of the HTML website. And I also explained the basic structure of the HTML tag, but just for a quick recap.

The anatomy of an HTML tag

Each HTML tag consists of the opening tag, which includes the tag name with opening and closing brackets. Then we have the content of a tag, which can be just plain text or very likely another tag. And lastly, the closing tag, which looks like the opening tag, but has the forward slash before the element name.

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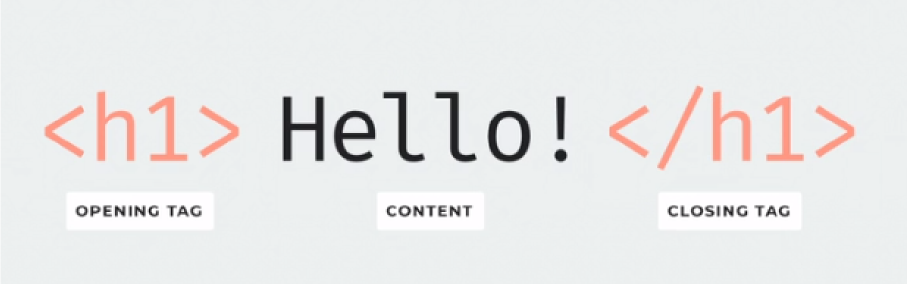
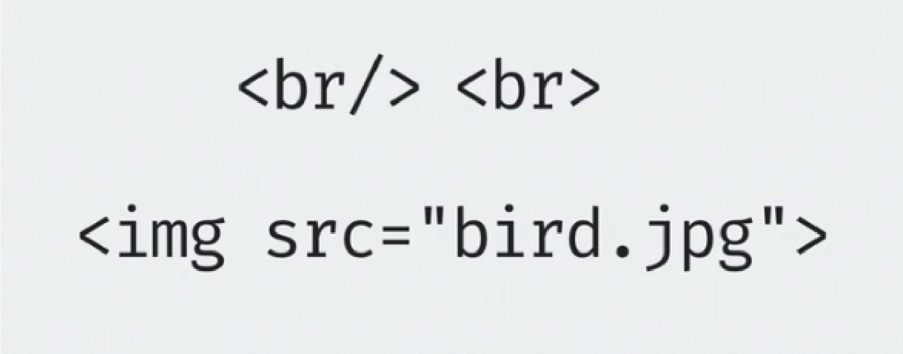


```
<h1> Hello! </h1>
```

Self-closing HTML tags

There are some exceptions called self-closing tags. For example, a **<br/>** is a self-closing tag indicating a line break. And in HTML5 we can ignore the forward-slash symbol and just use **<br>**.



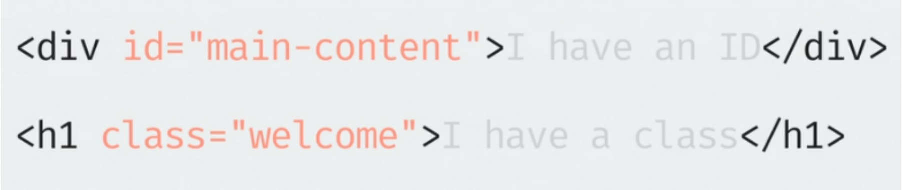
```
<br/> <br>

<img src="bird.jpg">
```

Another popular self-closing tag is an image tag. For the image tag, we need to define the source attribute, meaning the URL of the image.

HTML attributes

And that brings us to attributes. Tags can have multiple different attributes, and the most common are "IDs" and "classes", but you can see many different ones.



```
<div id="main-content">I have an ID</div>

<h1 class="welcome">I have a class</h1>
```

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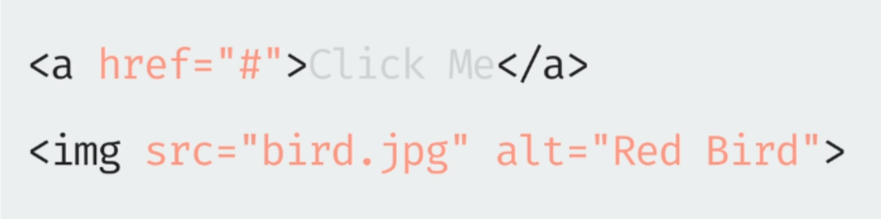
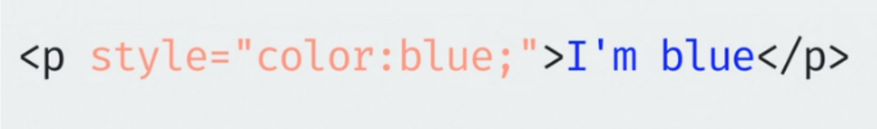
Links, for example, would use an "href" attribute. An image tag would use the "src" attribute and the "alt" attribute, which you probably know already, where it includes the alternative text (for browser to display if there is a problem with loading the image or for accessibility - for screen readers).



```
<a href="#">Click Me</a>

<img src="bird.jpg" alt="Red Bird">
```

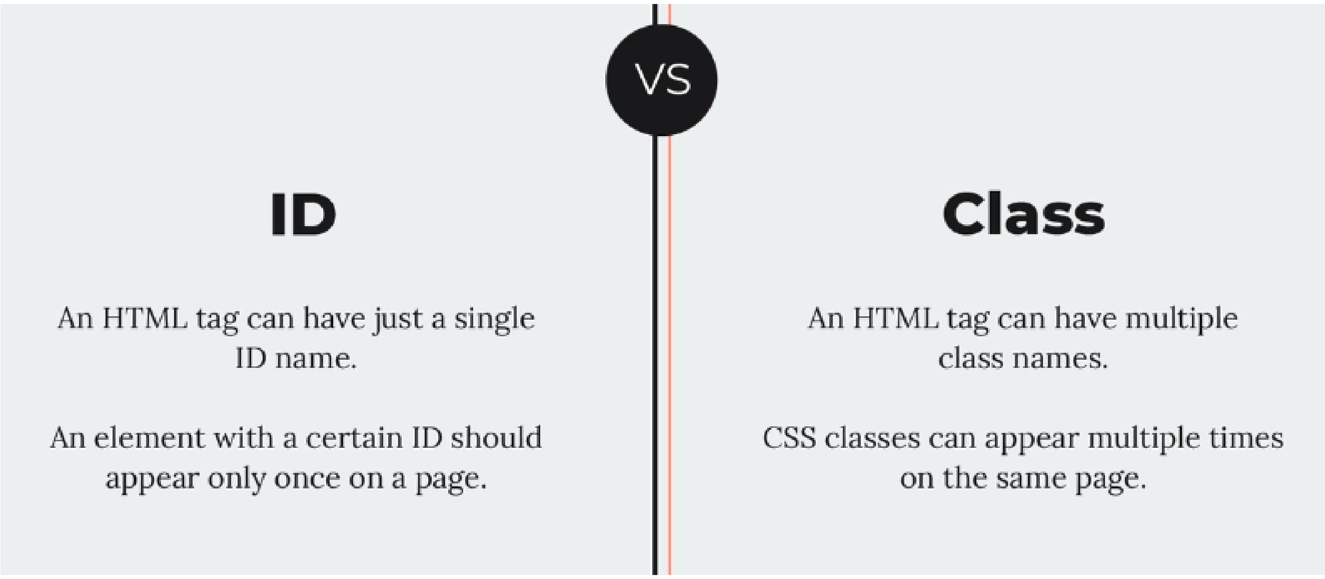
There is also a "style" attribute that can hold our CSS, but we'll get back to that one later.



```
<p style="color:blue;">I'm blue</p>
```

ID vs Class

Let's focus on IDs and classes here, because that is what we are going to target most of the time with our CSS. Let me briefly explain the difference between the two.



ID

An HTML tag can have just a single ID name.

An element with a certain ID should appear only once on a page.

Class

An HTML tag can have multiple class names.

CSS classes can appear multiple times on the same page.

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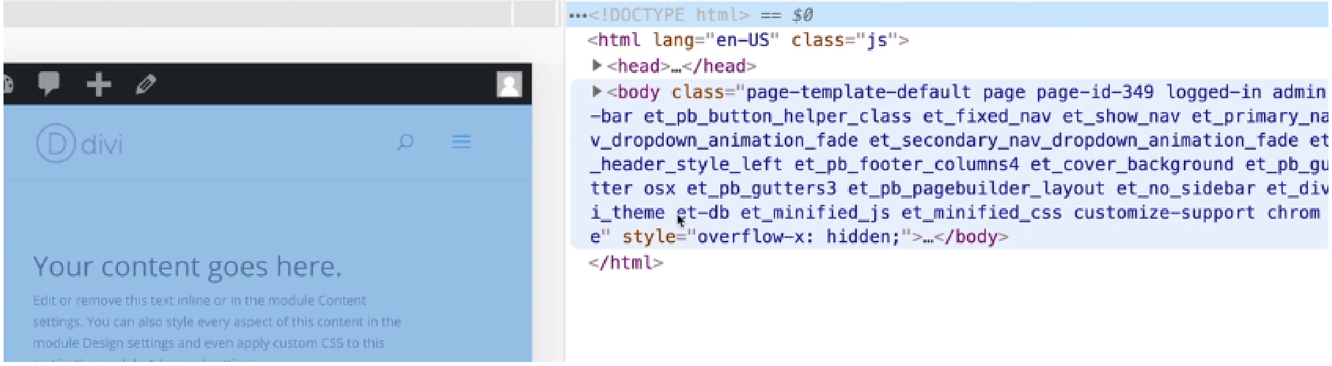
An HTML tag can have just a single ID name but can have multiple class names. Also, an element with a certain ID should appear only once on a page (you should not add the same ID to multiple elements on a single page), and CSS classes, on the other hand, can appear multiple times on the same page.

To add multiple classes to an element, we separate class names with a space.

```
<div id="unique" class="first second">
    content :-)
</div>
```

Looking at the HTML source

Below is a sample Divi website, almost empty. Look how many classes the body element is using.



Your content goes here.

Edit or remove this text inline or in the module Content settings. You can also style every aspect of this content in the module Design settings and even apply custom CSS to this

```
•••<!DOCTYPE html> == $0
  <html lang="en-US" class="js">
   ▶<head>…</head>
   ▶<body class="page-template-default page page-id-349 logged-in admin
    -bar et_pb_button_helper_class et_fixed_nav et_show_nav et_primary_na
    v_dropdown_animation_fade et_secondary_nav_dropdown_animation_fade et
    _header_style_left et_pb_footer_columns4 et_cover_background et_pb_gu
    tter osx et_pb_gutters3 et_pb_pagebuilder_layout et_no_sidebar et_div
    i_theme et-db et_minified_js et_minified_css customize-support chrom
    e" style="overflow-x: hidden;">…</body>
  </html>
```

Next, we have a div with an ID page container and the style attribute with some inline CSS. It also has a CSS class added because I've included some animated elements in the layout.

Further down we have the header element with some data attributes, style, and a class.

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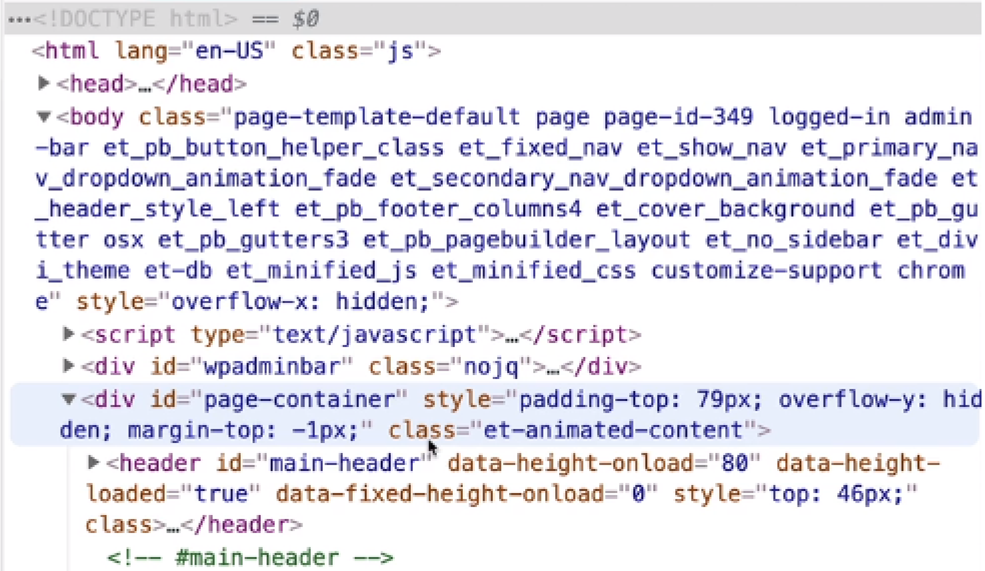

```
•••<!DOCTYPE html> == $0
  <html lang="en-US" class="js">
  ▶<head>…</head>
  ▼<body class="page-template-default page page-id-349 logged-in admin
  -bar et_pb_button_helper_class et_fixed_nav et_show_nav et_primary_na
  v_dropdown_animation_fade et_secondary_nav_dropdown_animation_fade et
  _header_style_left et_pb_footer_columns4 et_cover_background et_pb_gu
  tter osx et_pb_gutters3 et_pb_pagebuilder_layout et_no_sidebar et_div
  i_theme et-db et_minified_js et_minified_css customize-support chrom
  e" style="overflow-x: hidden;">
    ▶<script type="text/javascript">…</script>
    ▶<div id="wpadminbar" class="nojq">…</div>
    ▼<div id="page-container" style="padding-top: 79px; overflow-y: hid
    den; margin-top: -1px;" class="et-animated-content">
      ▶<header id="main-header" data-height-onload="80" data-height-
      loaded="true" data-fixed-height-onload="0" style="top: 46px;"
      class>…</header>
        <!-- #main-header -->
```

We have the whole page structure with multiple divs, and the further down we get to see our sections, and rows, and columns, each with multiple CSS classes, and finally our modules and the content of these modules.

Final thoughts

And that is basically it. I hope this overview gives you some clarity, so please go ahead and look inside your website source and see all the pieces, and I'm sure this nested structure will start to make sense. Understanding HTML is very important to be able to target specific website elements later with CSS.

Resources

LEARN HTML:

HTML Element Reference

HTML Cheat Sheet - available in the Downloads section of this lesson

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Action Items

- □ Inspect your website in the browser inspector or view the page source. Look through the HTML structure and see how many different tags you can spot.
- □ Download and print the HTML cheatsheet

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