

HTML Tags

Hello, and welcome to the lesson about 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 so that you 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 basic structure of the HTML tag, but just for a quick recap.

Anatomy of an HTML Tag

Each HTML tag consists of the opening tag - tag name with opening and closing bracket - content of a tag - which can be just plain text or very likely another tag - and the closing tag - which looks like the opening tag, but has the forward slash before the element name.

Self-closing HTML Tags

There are some exceptions, called self-closing tags. For example, a `
` is a self-closing tag - a line break. And in HTML5 we can ignore the forward-slash symbol and just use `
`. Another popular self-closing tag is an image tag. For the image tag - we need to define the source attribute - the URL of the image.

HTML Attributes

And that brings us to attributes. Tags can have multiple different attributes, the most common are "IDs" and "classes", but you can see many different ones. Links for example would use an "href" attribute.

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

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. An HTML tag can have just a single ID name but can have multiple class names. And also 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 symbol. And if you look here - this is a sample Divi website, almost empty - look how many classes the body element is using. 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. 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.

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.