

## HTML <div> Tag

#div# is a container for flow content. #div# description, syntax, usage, attributes and examples. HTML-5.com is a great guide for web developers. [TV Series & Actors and Actresses](#). Follow [TV Series](#) and [HTML 5](#) on Google+.

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### The <div> Tag in HTML 5

The **div** element is a generic container for [flow content](#). It can be used to style the presentation of a block of HTML code. If the block of code is a section that should be included in the document outline, one of the [sectioning tags](#) should be used instead:

- [<article> sectioning tag for an article](#)
- [<aside> sectioning tag for a sidebar](#)
- [<nav> tag for a navigation section](#) such as a [navigation toolbar](#) with a [drop-down menu](#), instead of `<div role="menu">`
- [<section> tag](#)

There is also a generic container for [phrasing content](#), the [span element](#), which can be used to style inline HTML code.

The following demo makes use of a <div> tag to center an [unordered list](#) in its entirety so that the bullets will be in a nice straight vertical line and to style it with a blue [outset border](#).

- Tina Fey
- Jane Lynch
- Kyra Sedgwick
- Andie MacDowell
- Laura San Giacomo
- Clare MacIntyre-Ross
- Kimberly Williams-Paisley

This is an actual working example of the [<div> tag example code](#) below.

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### <div> Tag Syntax

```
<a mode="pre" href="../body-tag/index.html#syntax"><body></a>
...
<a mode="pre" href="../html-tag-list.html#flow-content-model">... flow content expected ...
<b mode="pre"><div></b>
  <a mode="pre" href="../../definitions/index.html#flow-content">... flow content ...</a>
<b mode="pre"></div></b>
```

```
...  
</body>
```

## Rules for coding HTML `div` elements

Make sure you understand the [difference between a tag and element](#) and are familiar with the [definitions](#) of [namespace](#) and other [HTML terms](#).

1. Include a `div` element where [flow content](#) is expected.
2. Begin the `div` element with a starting `<div>` tag. The element name uses lower case letters and should be in the [HTML namespace](#), which it will pick up automatically from the [xmlns attribute](#) on the `<html>` tag.
3. Inside the `div` element, between the starting `<div>` tag and the ending `</div>` tag, code the inner HTML [flow content](#).
4. End the `div` element with a matching `</div>` closing tag.

## <div> Content Model

The content of the `div` element can include [HTML comments](#), [text content](#) and any [tags that can be used in flow content](#).

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## <div> Tag Attributes

### Attributes of the <div> tag

#### [global attributes](#)

In addition to the personal attributes of the `<div>` tag below, any of the [common HTML attributes](#) can also be coded. A [class attribute](#) or [style attribute](#) is often used to style the [inner HTML](#) of the `div` element.

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## <div> Tag Examples

### Examples of the `div` tag in HTML 5

#### Using a `<div>` tag to center a list

```
<div style="width: 35%; margin: 0.5em auto; border: 6px outset #0000ff">  
<style scoped="scoped">  
  ul.star-shaped-bullet { margin: 0; list-style: none; text-align: center }  
  ul.star-shaped-bullet li:before { content: "\2606\a0" }  
</style>  
<ul class="star-shaped-bullet" style="padding: 6px; text-align: left">  
  <li>Tina Fey</li>  
  <li>Jane Lynch</li>  
  <li>Kyra Sedgwick</li>  
  <li>Andie MacDowell</li>  
  <li>Laura San Giacomo</li>  
  <li>Clare MacIntyre-Ross</li>  
  <li>Kimberly Williams-Paisley</li>  
</ul>  
</div>
```

On the [<div> tag](#), the `text-align: center` style is used to center the list, along with `auto` in the second position of the `margin` style, which keeps the left margin from being

forced to a fixed width. The `text-align: left` style for the `li` element keeps the `list items` left justified. If the `div` element was omitted and the `text-align: center` style was coded on the `<ul>` tag then each list item would be centered and the bullets would be staggered.

Demo of various border styles.

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## Changes in HTML 5 - <div> Tag

### What's new in HTML 5

The introduction of [sectioning tags in HTML 5](#) is intended to reduce the need to use `<div>` tags for sectioning purposes.

### Differences between HTML 5 and earlier versions of HTML

Sections of a page should be identified with the more specific [sectioning tags](#) rather than `<div>` tags. Instead of using `<div>`s like this:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml">
  <head>
    <title>Page Title</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    <div class="site-heading">
      <h1>My Example Site</h1>
    </div>
    <div class="site-navigation">
      ...
    </div>
    <div class="content">
      <div class="page-heading">
        <h2>Page Heading</h2>
        <div class="page-navigation">
          ...
        </div>
      </div>
      <p>This is the introduction to the article.
      </p>
      <div class="section">
        <h3>Section Heading</h3>
        <p>This is the content of the section.
        </p>
      </div>
      ... additional "section"s ...
      <div class="footer">...</div>
    </div>
    <div class="right-side">
      ...
    </div>
  </body>
</html>
```

use this structure instead:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml">
  <head>
```

```
<title>Page Title</title>
</head>
<body>
  <h1>My Example Site</h1>
  <nav>
    ...
  </nav>
  <article>
    <header>
      <h2>Page Heading</h2>
      <nav>
        ...
      </nav>
    </header>
    <p>This is the introduction to the article.
  </p>
    <section>
      <h3>Section Heading</h3>
      <p>This is the content of the section.
    </p>
    </section>
    ... additional <section>s ...
    <footer>...</footer>
  </article>
  <aside>
    ...
  </aside>
</body>
</html>
```

The following attributes should *not* be coded on the <div> tag because they either have been deprecated or were never officially supported:

- `align`

The [2000-2010 Recommendations from the W3C HTML Working Group](#) defined the [HTML namespace](#) for the `div` element type name along with the names of all [HTML element types](#). In older (pre-2000) [versions of HTML](#), element type names were not associated with a namespace.

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*THE END*