



Text Elements

XHTML Text Elements

An XHTML element is a component of an XHTML document. It is typically comprised of a start tag, an end tag, and some web content in between the start and end tag.

We've already learned about the `<html>`, `<head>`, `<body>`, `<meta>`, and `<title>` elements. Now let's learn some elements that we'll use to present actual text content on our web page:

<code><p></code>	Paragraph
<code>
</code>	Line Break
<code><hr></code>	Horizontal Rule
<code><h1></code> - <code><h6></code>	Headings
<code></code>	Unordered List
<code></code>	Ordered List
<code></code>	List Item

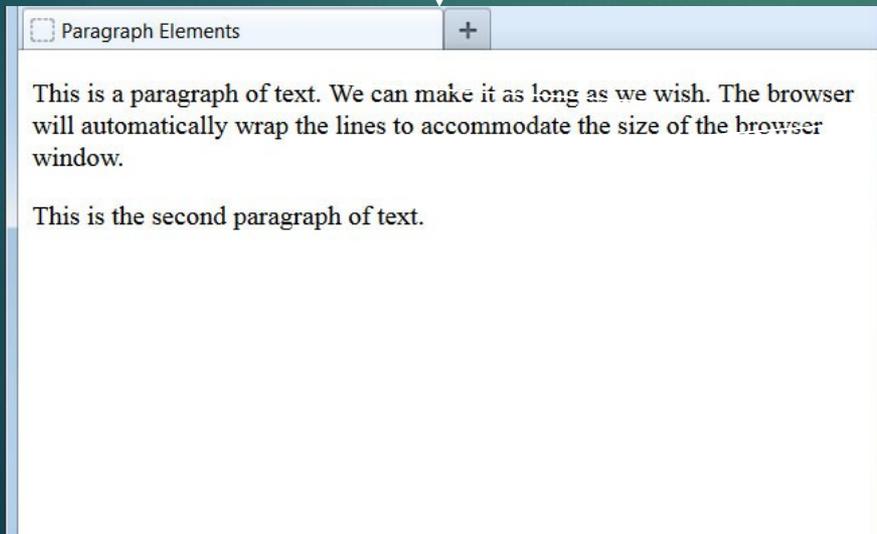
The `<p>` Element

The standard way of presenting blocks of text in an XHTML document is to use the `<p>` ("paragraph") element:

```
<body>
```

```
  <p>This is a paragraph of text. We can make it as long as we  
wish. The browser will automatically wrap the lines to accommodate the  
size of the browser window.</p>
```

```
  <p>This is the second paragraph of text.</p>  
</body>
```



The paragraph element adds a blank line above and below the text.

Text content can also exist in an XHTML document all by itself. However, this is not recommended, as it's easier to format and style text inside a `<p>` element, as we'll learn later in the course.

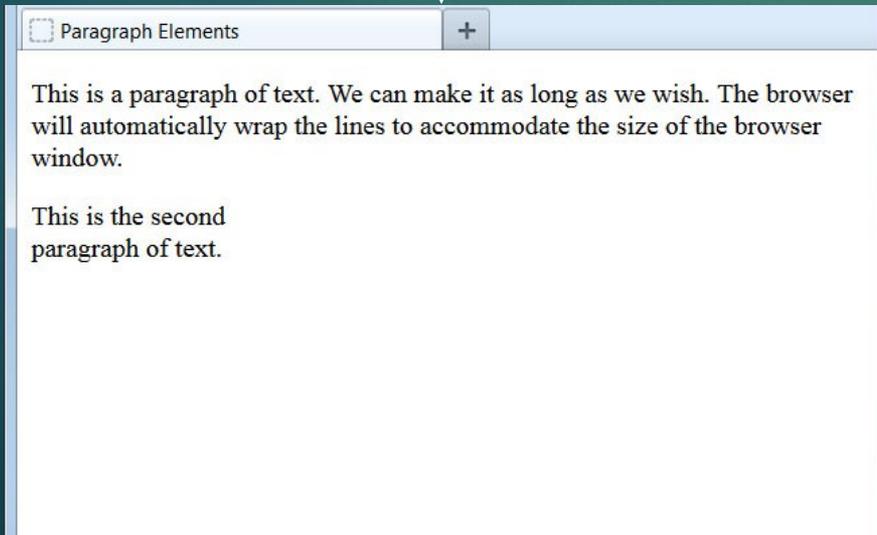
The `
` Element

The `
` ("break") element creates a line break without adding any blank lines above or below:

```
<body>
```

```
  <p>This is a paragraph of text. We can make it as long as we  
wish. The browser will automatically wrap the lines to accommodate the  
size of the browser window.</p>
```

```
  <p>This is the second <br />paragraph of text.</p>  
</body>
```

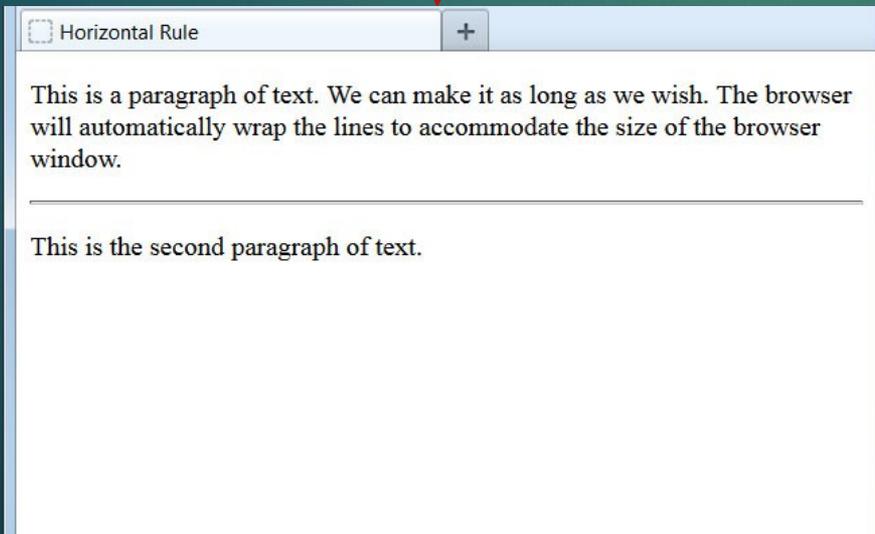


A handful of elements do not use a separate closing tag. We already saw the `<meta>` element from the first lesson. `
` is another example. In these cases, the forward slash is placed at the end of the opening tag itself, and these are known as **self-closing elements**.

The `<hr>` Element

The `<hr>` ("horizontal rule") element draws a horizontal line across the screen:

```
<body>
  <p>This is a paragraph of text. We can make it as long as we
wish. The browser will automatically wrap the lines to accommodate the
size of the browser window.</p>
  <hr />
  <p>This is the second paragraph of text.</p>
</body>
```

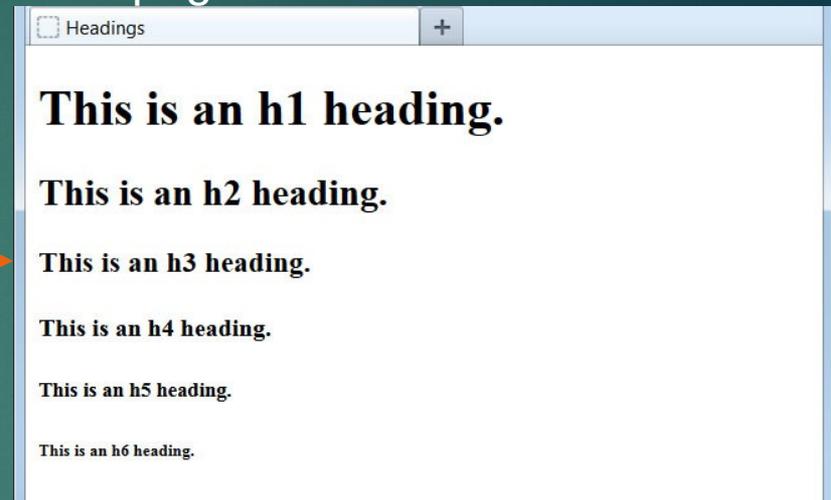


Note that the `<hr>` element is another self-closing element and includes the trailing slash.

The `<h1>` - `<h6>` Elements

Heading elements provide structure to a web page:

```
<body>  
  <h1>This is an h1 heading.</h1>  
  <h2>This is an h2 heading.</h2>  
  <h3>This is an h3 heading.</h3>  
  <h4>This is an h4 heading.</h4>  
  <h5>This is an h5 heading.</h5>  
  <h6>This is an h6 heading.</h6>  
</body>
```



Heading elements add blank lines before and after the text, just like `<p>` does.

The `<h1>` element - often referred to as the **main heading** - indicates the most important heading and should be used no more than once per page.

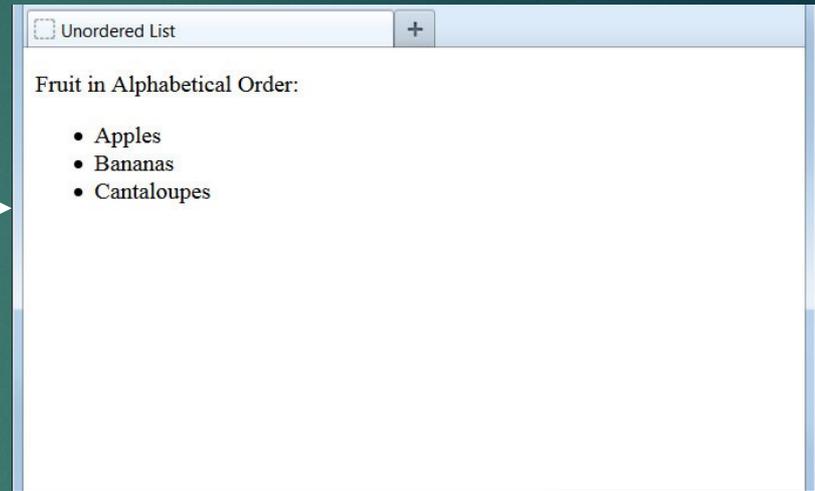
The role of XHTML is to define and organize content, not to format it. Heading elements should not be used as a way to bold words on the page. Rather, they should be used to define the relative importance of content. Thus, `<h2>` is more important than `<h3>`.

Lower elements (e.g. `<h4>`) can be used, even if higher ones (e.g. `<h3>`) haven't.

The `` Element

The `` element ("unordered list") creates an indented bullet point list of items:

```
<body>
  <p>Fruit in Alphabetical Order:</p>
  <ul>
    <li>Apples</li>
    <li>Bananas</li>
    <li>Cantaloupes</li>
  </ul>
</body>
```



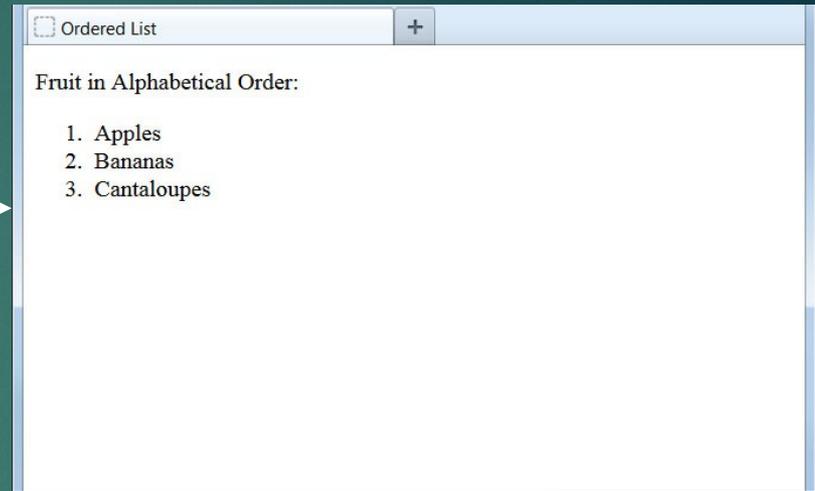
The `` element ("list item") is used for each individual item in a list. They are all nested within the `` tags.

By default, the list items are shown with bullet points, but this can be changed to squares, circles, or other graphics using CSS, which we will learn later in the course.

The `` Element

The `` element ("ordered list") creates an indented list of numbered items:

```
<body>
  <p>Fruit in Alphabetical Order:</p>
  <ol>
    <li>Apples</li>
    <li>Bananas</li>
    <li>Cantaloupes</li>
  </ol>
</body>
```



The `` element works identically to the `` element. The only difference is whether the listed items are shown with bullet points or numbers.

By default, the list items show with incrementing numbers. By using CSS, we can change this to letters or Roman numerals.