ScopeTreasure Courses

HTML COURSES · LESSON 1.2 · CODE SCOPE SERIES

Headings, Paragraphs & Text Formatting

Learn h1 to h6 headings, the one-h1 rule, the p paragraph tag, and text formatting tags like strong, em, mark and code — with examples.

Introduction

Open any news page, blog or college notice page: your eyes first catch a big headline, then smaller headlines, then paragraphs of text. That order is not decoration — it is structure, and HTML headings create it. In this lesson you learn the six heading levels, the famous one-h1 rule, the paragraph tag, and the small formatting tags (bold, italic, highlight and friends) that you will use in almost every page you ever write. *(Roman Urdu: Heading aur paragraph har page ki buniyaad hain — pehle barri sarakh, phir chhoti sarakhian, phir mutan.)*

Key points

- There are **6 heading levels**: `<h1>` is the biggest, `<h6>` is the smallest. There is no `<h7>`.
- Headings are **structure, not just big text**. Think of a newspaper: one big headline, smaller headlines under it, then small notes. Google and screen readers read the headings to understand the page's outline.
  (Roman Urdu: Heading sirf bara text nahi — ye page ka khaaka hai.)
  Read your headings alone, one after another: they should tell the whole story of the page, like the table of contents of a book.
- **The one-h1 rule:** a page has only **one** `<h1>` — its main title. Use `<h2>` for section headings and `<h3>` for smaller parts inside a section. Like a pyramid: one at the top, more below.
- Go in order. Do not jump from `<h1>` straight to `<h4>` just because you like the size. Size is the browser's job — order is your job.
- `<p>` makes a **paragraph**. The browser automatically leaves some space after each paragraph, so you never need to add empty lines yourself.
- Text formatting tags come in **meaning pairs**: The pairs look the same on screen, but they do not *mean* the same: a screen reader stresses `<strong>` and `<em>` text when reading aloud, while `<b>` and `<i>` tell it nothing.
  - `<strong>` = important text (bold **with meaning**) — use this one.
  - `<b>` = bold look only, no meaning.
  - `<em>` = emphasis (italic **with meaning**) — use this one.
  - `<i>` = italic look only, no meaning.
- `<br>` breaks the line **inside** a paragraph (no closing tag). `<hr>` draws a horizontal line to separate sections (no closing tag).

- Bonus tags from the lesson: `<mark>` highlights text like a marker pen, `<small>` makes small text (like a copyright line), `<del>` shows crossed-out text (old price on a sale), `<u>` underlines (careful — it looks like a link), `<code>` shows code in a monospace font.

Code examples

Example 1 — A small article page with a heading pyramid

```
<h1>My City: Lahore</h1>
<p>Lahore is a famous city of Pakistan.</p>

<h2>Famous Places</h2>
<p>Badshahi Mosque and Lahore Fort are very old.</p>

<h3>Badshahi Mosque</h3>
<p>It was built in 1673.</p>
```

What it does: One main title (`h1`), one section (`h2`), and one sub-section (`h3`). The page has a clean pyramid structure that Google and screen readers can follow.

What you will see: "My City: Lahore" in the biggest bold text, then a paragraph. "Famous Places" clearly smaller, then a paragraph. "Badshahi Mosque" smaller again, then its line. Your eye understands the order before you read a single word — that is the pyramid working.

Example 2 — Formatting inside a paragraph

```
<p>Price: <del>Rs 2,000</del> <strong>Rs 1,500</strong> only.
This offer is <em>very</em> important.
<mark>Sale ends on Friday.</mark></p>
```

What it does: The old price is crossed out, the new price is bold and marked important, one word gets emphasis, and the last line is highlighted like a marker pen.

What you will see: "Rs 2,000" with a line through it, "Rs 1,500" in strong bold, the word "very" leaning in italic, and "Sale ends on Friday." covered with a yellow highlight — exactly like a shop's sale notice.

Example 3 — Line breaks, a section line, and small text

```
<p>Ali Raza<br>Street 4, Multan Road<br>Lahore</p>
<hr>
<p><small>© 2026 Ali Raza. All rights reserved.</small></p>
```

What it does: `<br>` keeps the address lines together inside one paragraph — a new line, but not a new paragraph. `<hr>` separates the address block from the footer line, and `<small>` makes the copyright line small.

What you will see: three address lines stacked tightly, one under the other, with no big gaps. Then a thin line across the full width of the page. Under it, the copyright line in noticeably smaller text.

Quick recap

- Six heading levels: `<h1>` biggest, `<h6>` smallest — and only **one** `<h1>` per page.
- Choose headings by **order and structure**, never by the size you like — sizes are CSS's job later.
- `<p>` is a paragraph; the browser adds the space after it itself.
- `<strong>` and `<em>` carry meaning; `<b>` and `<i>` only change the look.
- `<br>` breaks a line inside a paragraph; `<hr>` draws a line between sections.
- Bonus kit: `<mark>` highlight, `<small>` small text, `<del>` crossed-out, `<code>` code font.

Common mistakes

1. **Many `<h1>` tags on one page** — if everything is the main title, nothing is. Keep one `h1`, use `h2` / `h3` for the rest.
2. **Choosing a heading by size** — picking `<h4>` only because `<h2>` "looks too big". Choose by order and structure; change sizes later with CSS.
3. **Making space with empty paragraphs or many `<br>` tags** — spacing is CSS's job. Use `<p>` for real paragraphs only.

Practice

1. Take any plain text (a news paragraph or your own 6–8 lines) and turn it into an article page: one `h1`, two `h2` sections, one `h3`, and a `p` under each heading.
2. In that page, make one important line `<strong>`, one word `<em>`, one line `<mark>`, and separate the two sections with an `<hr>`.

Practice quiz

1. What does <h1> do?

- A small paragraph
- The biggest heading on the page
- A link
- A list item

Answer: The biggest heading on the page

2. What does <p> do?

- A paragraph of text
- A picture

- A button
- A table row

Answer: A paragraph of text

Watch the video lesson: https://youtu.be/GR2vA9ZI3u8

Practice tool: Case Converter — https://scopetreasure.com/tool/case-converter

Read online: https://scopetreasure.com/notes/html-headings-paragraphs-text-formatting · More free tools and notes at https://scopetreasure.com