

Semantic HTML Landmarks Cheatsheet



Semantic HTML landmarks provide structure and navigation points for assistive technologies. Here's a quick reference of common landmarks to help screen reader users find their way – just like Toronto's CN Tower and Seattle's Space Needle do for residents of their respective cities.

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Common HTML landmarks

Element	Purpose	Notes
<header></header>	Site banner	Includes a logo, navigation, search, etc.
<main></main>	Main content	Everything between the header and footer.
<aside></aside>	Supporting content	Use for a sidebar, related links or callouts.
<section></section>	Thematic grouping	Related but distinct parts of a page, each with it's own heading.
<footer></footer>	Closing area	Includes a navigation, small print, copyright, etc.
<nav></nav>	Important link sets	Use for header and footer link sets and in-page table of contents.

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Helpful tips

- If you have multiple <nav> tags on your site, differentiate them for screen readers using arialabel attributes
- <section> tags may not show up on some screen readers without aria-label or aria-labelledby attributes

Additional resources

- (Blog) How Semantic HTML Landmarks Improve Accessibility
- (YouTube) Semantic HTML Landmarks Made Simple
- (GitHub) Semantic HTML Landmarks Code Example