

# Semantic HTML: Headings

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## What are HTML headings?

- Headings are HTML tags that hold titles and subheadings on a web page
- They start at h1 which holds the overall title of the entire page and go down to h6 in order of importance, with h6 being least important

## Why do they matter?

- They give order and structure to the web page
- They allow the browser to index and structure your page visually
- They allow users and screen readers to skip to sections in order to find what they need faster

## What should be included in headings?

- Descriptive titles that accurately describes what is on the page
- Descriptive subheadings that describe the subject of the paragraph under the subheading
  - This allows users to find what they need quickly (WCAG 2.4.6)

## What should we avoid when using headings?

- Using more than one H1
  - Only one H1 should be on a page
  - The H1 holds the overall topic of the page
- Choosing headings for style
  - Headings should be used based on topic order, not for style
  - To style your headings, use CSS to manipulate the size, font and weight of your letters
- Placing headings in non-sequential order
  - For example, after H1 comes H2, then H3 (as a subtitle of H2) then H4 (as a subtitle of H3)
  - Order can be nonsequential if starting a new section after a subsection (for example a h2 after a h3 subsection to start a new section)

## Heading Structure Example

Simple example using flowers:

```
<h1> Flowers Around the World </h1>
  <h2> North American Flowers</h2>
    <h3> Sunflowers </h3>
      <h4> Tips for Growing</h4>
        <h5> Water Reccomendations </h5>
        <h5> Sunlight Reccommendations </h5>
    <h3> Tulips </h3>
      <h4> Tips for Growing</h4>
        <h5> Water Reccomendations </h5>
        <h5> Sunlight Reccommendations </h5>
        <h6> Indoor recommendations</h6>
        <h6> Outdoor Reccomendations</h6>
  <h2> African Flowers </h2>
    <h3> Blood Lily</h3>
      <h4> Tips for Growing </h4>
      <h5> Water Reccomendations </h5>
```

```

        <h5> Sunlight Reccommendations </h5>
    <h3> Day Waterlilly
        <h4> Tips for Growing</h4>
            <h5> Water Reccommendations </h5>
            <h5> Sunlight Reccommendations </h5>
<h2> Asian Flowers </h2>
    <h3> Lotus</h3>
        <h4> Tips for Growing </h4>
            <h5> Water Reccommendations </h5>
            <h5> Sunlight Reccommendations </h5>
    <H3> Orchid</h3>
        <h4> Tips for Growing </h4>
            <h5> Water Reccommendations </h5>
            <h5> Sunlight Reccommendations </h5>

```

### Real World Example

```

<h1> All About Semantic HTML Headings </h1>
    <h2> What are HTML Headings?</h2>
        <h3> Titles </h3>
            <h4> Title Considerations</h4>
        <h3> Subheadings </h3>
            <h4>Subheading Considerations</h4>
    <h2> Why Do Headings Matter? </h2>
        <h3> Giving Order to Your Page</h3>
            <h4> How to Order Your Page </h4>
        <h3> Browser Indexing</h3>
            <h4> What is Indexing?</h4>
            <h4> How Does the Browser Render Headings? </h4>
    <h2> What Should We Avoid When Using Headings?
        <h3> Using more than one h1</h3>
            <h4> The most Important Topic </h4>
                <h5> How to Determine the Most Important Topic </h5>
    <H3> Choosing Headings for Style </h3>
        <h4> How to Change Style without Changing Headings </h4>
            <h5> Using CSS for Style</h5>
                <h6> Code Examples of CSS Styling </h6>

```

## WCAG 2.1 Considerations

The Web Content Accessibility Guidelines

Section 2.4.6 Headings and Labels: Headings and labels describe topic or purpose.

Source: <https://www.w3.org/WAI/WCAG21/Understanding/headings-and-labels.html>

### Quiz Questions

1. How many H1's should we have on our webpage?
2. Why is heading order important?
3. Why is it important to have accurate and descriptive headings?
4. How does non semantic out of order headings affect users of screen readers?

5. What should we use to change the style of our headings?
6. If you wanted to add another subsection under an h2 headings that is directly related to the h2 subject, what heading number would you use?
7. If you wanted to add a new subsection after an h2 that is not related to the current subsection of h2, which heading number would you use to make a new section?