HTML5 Element Flowchart
Sectioning content elements and friends

By @riddle & @boblet
www.html5doctor.com

Start

Is it a major navigation block?

Yes → <nav>

Site or in-page navigation (anything you’d use a “skip to nav” link for)
→ html5doctor.com/nav

No → Does it make sense on its own?

Yes → <article>

News article, weblog or forum post, comment on an article, sidebar widget etc, with a heading...
→ html5doctor.com/article

No → Is it required to understand the current content?

Yes → <aside>

Sidebar, comments section, pullquote, glossary, advertising, footnote etc that’s tangentially related to the page or content...
→ html5doctor.com/aside

No → Could you move it to an appendix?

Yes → <figure>

One or more images, graphics, code samples etc, plus optional <figcaption>...
→ html5doctor.com/figure

No → Is it logical to add a heading?

Yes → <section>

A section of the page, or chapter of an <article>, with a heading...
→ html5doctor.com/section

No → Does it have any semantics?

Yes → Appropriate element

Flow content with no additional semantics, e.g. for CSS hooks...
→ html5doctor.com/div

No → <div>

*Sectioning content element
These four elements (and their headings) are used by HTML5’s outlining algorithm to make the document’s outline
→ html5doctor.com_outline