HTML5 Element Flowchart
Sectioning content elements and friends

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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

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...
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Is it required to understand the current content?
No
<aside>*
Sidebar, comments section, pullquote, glossary, advertising, footnote etc that’s tangentially related to the page or content...
→ html5doctor.com/aside

Could you move it to an appendix?
Yes
<figure>*
One or more images, graphics, code samples etc, plus optional <figcaption>...
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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

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

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For more information:
www.html5doctor.com/semantics