

Lesson 2-10: Use the div and span tags

In *Lesson 2-8: Work with CSS* you applied a CSS style to *div* tags, but you might be wondering exactly what a *div* is.

Div and *span* tags (which will be covered in this lesson) are used as containers for your page's content in order to apply a CSS style to multiple elements. In this lesson, you'll work with the *div* tag and its partner the *span* tag.

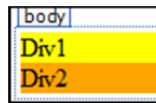
- 1 Open *HTMLTest* from your sample files folder.
- 2 Open *divspantest.aspx* in *Source* view.
- 3 Add two *div* tags containing some text.

1. Add the following HTML in the space between the *form* tags:

```
<div id="Div1">Div1</div>
<div id="Div2">Div2</div>
```

```
<form id="form1" runat="server">
  <div id="Div1">Div1</div>
  <div id="Div2">Div2</div>
</form>
```

2. Switch to *Design* view.



You'll see that the two *div* tags are displayed, but that they are on separate lines, despite the fact you didn't use any *p* or *br* tags. This is because the *div* tag automatically starts a new line after its closing tag.

You'll also notice that both of the *div* tags have picked up a background color. This is because there is a CSS stylesheet linked to this page (*divspantest.css*) that defines styling properties for any tag with the ID property *Div1* or *Div2*. Later in this lesson you will edit the linked stylesheet.

- 4 Add two *span* tags with text.

1. Switch to *Source* view and add the following HTML after the two *div* tags:

```
<span>Span1</span>
<span>Span2</span>
```

```
<form id="form1" runat="server">
  <div id="Div1">Div1</div>
  <div id="Div2">Div2</div>
  <span>Span1</span>
  <span>Span2</span>
</form>
```

2. Switch to *Design* view.

You'll see that the pieces of text held in the *span* tags are shown side by side. Unlike *div*, the *span* tag doesn't add any line breaks automatically.

note

Measurements in pixels (px)

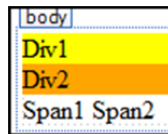
You might be wondering what the *px* means at the end of some CSS properties. *px* is short for *pixels*.

As you might be aware, your computer screen is made up of thousands of tiny dots called *pixels*. These measurements tell the user's web browser how to display your page using pixels as a measurement unit.

This can cause problems however, as different users might have more or fewer pixels displayed on their screen. A user with more pixels would see everything appear smaller.

To stretch a site to the size of the user's screen, you can use percentage measurements by using % in place of *px*.

There are also two other measurements called *em* and *pt* which are used to set sizes relative to the font in use.



5 Use CSS to set the size of the *Div2* element.

1. Open *divspantest.css* from the *Styles* folder.

You'll see the identifier classes that have already been created for *Div1* and *Div2*.

```
#Div1
{
    background-color: Yellow;
}

#Div2
{
    background-color: Orange;
}
```

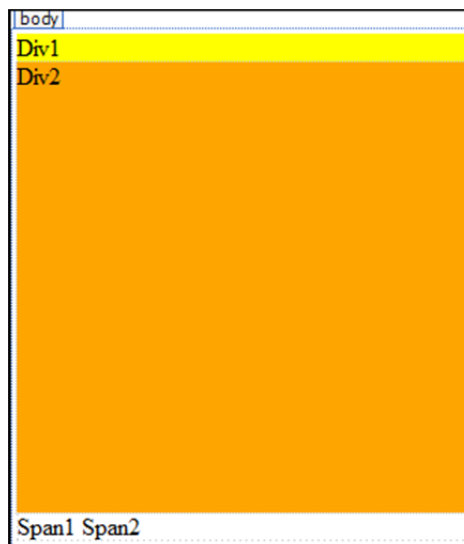
2. Add the following to the *#Div2* identifier:

width: 300px;
height: 300px;

```
#Div1
{
    background-color: Yellow;
}

#Div2
{
    background-color: Orange;
    width: 300px;
    height: 300px;
}
```

Switch back to *divspantest.aspx* and you'll see that the *Div2* box has increased in size thanks to your CSS.



Most modern web sites use a combination of *div* and *span* tags with CSS to create their layouts and style their content.

Some ASP.NET controls automatically create *div* and *span* tags. You'll see this in action in: *Lesson 3-1: Change properties with C#*.