Creating Digital Editions: An Introduction to the Text Encoding Initiative (TEI)

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XML cheat sheet

It’s easy to confuse the terms element (tag), attribute, value, and content.

<sentence> This is a sentence. </sentence>
<sentence type="declarative"> This is a sentence. </sentence>
<sentence type="declarative" xml:lang="ru"> Это предложение. </sentence>
<sentence type="interrogative"> Is this is a sentence? </sentence>

Elements may have zero, one, or more than one attribute. Attributes, if present, are only on the opening tag, never the closing tag.

Some elements are empty—they have no content. They can be written in either of the following ways:

<milestone type="pagebreak"/>
<milestone type="pagebreak"/>