**Lesson 3: Comments, Divs & Spans**

**The Set Up:**

***Preparation:***

Revisit the Mozilla Thimble activity from the previous lesson. Scan the code, and you will likely realize that each of the tags mentioned within the title of this lesson appear! Keep your Thimble window open and use it as a reference as you explore the lesson below. Once you have read through and understood the information below, complete “The Doing” activity at the end of this lesson, then show it to Ms. Hammond. Don’t forget to consider the comprehension questions!

**The Learning:**

***The CSS Comment Element***

* Has the same functionality as the html comment tag (<!--I’m a comment-->), but is formatted differently to look like this: /\*I’m a comment\*/
* While CSS comments can be used to record notes that explain why you’ve chosen to do something, or what you need to add in the future, they are also used to hide/disable particular styles. This is called **“commenting out”** and is a simple, effective way of quickly altering the way a page is styled.
* When using an .html editor like Dreamweaver, pieces of CSS and HTML that are “commented out” will appear grey in color.

***The Div Element***

* The <div> tag is nothing more than a regular ‘ol container tag like the ones we used in the previous HTML unit. The reason we are studying it now, rather than then, is that the <div> tag’s main usage is in partnership with CSS (and in combination with “Class” selectors).
* The <div> tag is used to wrap around page elements to divide the html document into sections. Web designers can then apply CSS styles to these sections (which often group several elements together), rather than applying the styles to each separate element, individually.
* For example, by wrapping a set of paragraph elements into a <div> element, the designer can take advantage of CSS styles and apply a font and color to all paragraphs/headings etc. within that <div> at once by applying the style to the <div> tag, rather than coding the same style for each individual paragraph.
* The div tag is used for **block-level formatting** (meaning, formatting that is used to format chunks of text, with page breaks in between)

***The Span Element***

* Like the <div> element, the <span> tag is a regular container tag. Again, the reason we are studying this now is that the <span> tag’s main usage is in partnership with CSS.
* The <span> tag is used to wrap around inline elements or groups of elements to apply styles to them. This is primarily used when you want to format the majority of an element using one style (which you may specify using an element <p> tag or <div> tag), but also format a small portion of that element using a different style.
* For example, let’s say we have a paragraph that reads:
  + “Eyes always fascinated me. My mother’s are a sort of blue color. My dad’s are a sort of green. Everyone always says I have my mother’s eyes. It makes me wonder, since they say eyes are the windows to the soul, does this mean I am more my mother than my father?”
  + We want the majority of the text to be slate grey, so we can specify that inside the <p> tag. However, we also want to change the words “blue” and “green” to their respective font colours. We can do this by wrapping span <span> tags around these particular words, then styling them to suit.
* The <span> tag is used for **inline-level formatting** (meaning, formatting that is used to format portions of text within the blocks)

**The Doing:**

***Code Academy Activity –*** [***CSS: An Overview***](https://www.codecademy.com/en/courses/web-beginner-en-TlhFi/0/1?curriculum_id=50579fb998b470000202dc8b)

Activity Instructions: Visit the Code Academy website by clicking the hyperlink above. Complete Lessons 1-6 (What’s CSS) and 7-12 (CSS Syntax).

***Comprehension Question:***

* How do the ways the comment tag is used differ between HTML and CSS?
* What do the <div> and <span> elements have in common? What is different about them?
* What is the difference between inline-level and block-level formatting?