

▼ Reading Notes for Castro Chapter 13

Lists

▼ Introduction

- "He's making a list, checking it twice..." Lists have been with HTML since the beginning, and their use cannot be over stated. This is especially true when you think about how the Web is a scanned, not read, medium. Proper use of lists makes your page much more readable.
- Elizabeth also talks a lot about how to format your lists using stylesheets. Mark these pages and refer back to them after we work with stylesheets.

▼ Terms to know

- Ordered
- Unordered
- Markers
- Definition
- Nested

▼ Reading Notes

- **Pages 204-205:** Here are the basic two lists that you will use in most situations. Your only decision is whether you want numbers or not. Unordered lists give you bullets. Note that you don't use block tags to format lists. Also, pay attention to her admonition to keep items short in lists.
- **Pages 206-210:** Yes, you have control over the bullets and numbers. Note that you can quickly declare "type" for an unordered list, as in `<ol type="circle">`, but that's now deprecated. Use her stylesheet methods instead. Note the different kinds of markers you can use for ordered lists - roman numerals and letters are nice alternatives.

Of special interest is the "start" attribute, which is useful if you don't want your number lists to begin with "1". Sometimes I put in a bunch of text between, say, item two and three, so end the `` after two and use a paragraph block. Then I create a new `<ol start="3">` to take up where I left off. I see that this too is now deprecated, with no CSS alternative. That's dumb.

I am often asked how to replace the bullets with graphics, and 210 gives the CSS way. We used to use a URL attribute to do this, but apparently that's gone, as she doesn't cover it.

- **Page 211:** Definition lists are the weak sibling of ordered and unordered, but they have their uses. Practice these to be sure and understand how they work; instead of using `` you alternate two tags, `<dl>` and `<dd>` (my favorite tag, because it's the *definition definition* tag, which I call the Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman tag). This tag is excellent for glossaries, and is much improved by simple CSS rules. But even in its basic state you get a nice formatting convention, as shown in Figure 13.21
- **Pages 212-213:** Nesting lists is quite powerful. You simply put a new list tag pair within an existing list, and it indents it and changes its marker. Of course, Elizabeth feels compelled to make this into a CSS thing, but even without all of that you get different formatting.