XML - TAGS

Let us learn about one of the most important part of XML, the *XML tags*. XML tags form the foundation of XML. They define the scope of an element in the XML. They can also be used to insert comments, declare settings required for parsing the environment and to insert special instructions.

We can broadly categorize XML tags as follows:

Start Tag

The beginning of every non-empty XML element is marked by a start-tag. An example of start-tag is:

```
<address>
```

End Tag

Every element that has a start tag should end with an end-tag. An example of end-tag is:

```
</address>
```

Note that the end tags include a solidus " / " before the name of an element.

Empty Tag

The text that appears between start-tag and end-tag is called *content*. An element which has no content is termed as **empty**. An **empty** element can be represented in two ways as below:

1 A start-tag immediately followed by an end-tag as shown below:

```
<hr></hr>
```

2 A complete empty-element tag is as shown below:

```
<hr />
```

Empty-element tags may be used for any element which has no content.

XML Tags Rules

Following are the rules that need to be followed to use XML tags:

Rule 1

XML tags are case-sensitive. Following line of code is an example of wrong syntax </Address>, because of the case difference in two tags, which is treated as erroneous syntax in XML.

```
<address>This is wrong syntax</Address>
```

Following code shows a correct way, where we use the same case to name the start and the end tag.

```
<address>This is correct syntax</address>
```

Rule 2

XML tags must be closed in an appropriate order, i.e., an XML tag opened inside another element

must be closed before the outer element is closed. For example:

```
<outer_element>
    <internal_element>
        This tag is closed before the outer_element
    </internal_element>
</outer_element>
```