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Use a section when the content has a section

By Gyata Tabiri · Revised November 2, 2026

A new background color does not necessarily mean a new section. I want a page's HTML to describe its topics, while the styling describes their visual treatment.

Ask what this group is about

A substantial part of an article may deserve a section and a heading. A wrapper used only to create spacing may be better expressed as a neutral container. The useful distinction is whether the grouping helps someone understand the content independently of its position on screen.

Do not let a card choose its own semantics

A card might contain an independent composition, a navigation choice, or a supporting piece of a larger topic. Those uses can look similar. I would decide whether an article, section, or ordinary container fits by reading the content and its relationship to the page.

Keep navigation worth navigating

A named region can help identify an important area. Naming every small wrapper can make the structure more demanding to move through. Inspect the accessibility tree and consider whether each region gives someone a useful choice, rather than assuming more landmarks must be better.

Try moving the content

Imagine a case study's contribution summary moving from a side panel into the main column. Does its relationship to the surrounding headings still make sense? The visual arrangement should be able to change without requiring the document to invent a different meaning for the same material.

A section earns its place through the content it groups. The tag is most useful when it makes an existing relationship clearer.

Read alongside: HTML as a description of relationships · The outline beneath the layout.

Reference: HTML section definition.