An XML document, simply stated, consists of elements and attributes. An element is really just a specific part of the document—in other words, any part that has been labeled with a pair of XML tags. Elements might include such items as document title, section headings, paragraphs, titles of works, terms marked for emphasis (and destined to be italicized or otherwise distinguished from the surrounding text), names of authors, and cross-references. An XML attribute is included inside the opening tag for an XML element and provides additional information about that element. For example, a document may include various lists, each tagged with a pair of “list” tags. These lists could be further distinguished from each other by attributes that identify the type of list—“ordered” versus “unordered,” for example. An associated style sheet would recognize the attributes and format the two kinds of lists differently—for example, the “ordered list” as a list numbered with figure a.1.

A period marks the end of a declarative or an imperative sentence. Between sentences, it is followed by a single space (see (2.9), (6.7)). A period may also follow a word or phrase standing alone, as in the third example. For the many other uses of the period, consult the index.

When an entire independent sentence is enclosed in parentheses or square brackets, the period belongs inside the closing parenthesis or bracket. When matter in parentheses or brackets, even a grammatically complete sentence, is included within another sentence, the period belongs outside (but see also (6.96)). Avoid enclosing more than one complete sentence within another sentence. For the location of a period with quotation marks, see (6.9).

Fiorelli insisted on rewriting the paragraph. (His newfound ability to type was both a blessing and a curse.) Farnsworth had left an angry message for Isadora on the mantel (she noticed it while glancing in the mirror). “All the evidence pointed to the second location [the Lászlós’ studio].”