Relative positioning means an element is placed relative to its natural position in the document's flow. When you use relative positioning, an element is positioned relative to where it would regularly be. If the top and left properties are given, then relative positioning displace the element by the specified amount from the natural position.

```xml
<?xml version = "1.0" encoding = "utf-8"?>
<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//w3c//DTD XHTML 1.1//EN"
    "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml11/DTD/xhtml11.dtd">
<html xmlns = "http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml">
  <div id="someDiv" style="position:absolute; left:100px; top:50px">
    Hello.
    <span id="someSpan" style="position:absolute; left:10px; top:30px">
      Hello, again!!!!!.
    </span>
    And now it's time to say goodbye.
  </div>
</html>
```

The top property defines how far from the top of its usual position we want the top of element to appear. If we use a positive value, then our element is moved down from the usual position, whereas a negative value would move our element up from the usual position.

The left property defines how far from its usual position we want the left of our element to appear. Positive values
will move the element right, and negative values will move it left the usual position.

If the top and left properties are not specified then element is positioned as if like the it is statically positioned. However, such an element can be moved later.

Relative positioning is used for creating different effects in the document. It can be used to highlight the special words in the text. The following example highlight the word “red” in line of text.

Output

<?xml version = "1.0" encoding = "utf-8"?>
<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//w3c//DTD XHTML 1.1//EN"
 "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml11/DTD/xhtml11.dtd">
<!—relative.html -- >
<html xmlns = "http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml">
<body style = "font-family: Times; font-size: 24pt;">
<p>
Roses are <span style = "position: relative; top: 10px;
font-family: Times; font-size: 48pt;
font-style: italic; color: red;">
red</span> in color.
</p>
</body>
</html>

Roses are red in color.

Relative positioning can be used to create superscripts. For example the following can be used to place “xyz” 10 pixels above the natural baseline of the text.

<p> The superscript in this name<span style="position: relative; top: -3px"> xyz </span> is “xyz”.</p>