

# Structural Directives - The Asterisk (\*) Prefix

The (\*) is a syntactic sugar. You'll have a ng-template wrapped around the host element with the \*directive.

This snippet

```
@Component({
  selector: 'app-root',
  templateUrl: './app.component.html',
  styles: []
})
export class AppComponent {
  la = [1, 2, 3];
}
```

app.component.html

```
<div *bla="la">
  some content
</div>
```

will be transformed into

```
<ng-template [bla]="la">
  <div>
    some content
  </div>
</ng-template>
```

- The `bla` directive moved to `ng-template` element where it is now a property binding
  - meaning the BlaDirective should have an `@Input() bla` which will get the value of `la`.
- The div element who hosted the \*directive moved inside the `ng-template`.

and you need the directive like this

```
import { Directive, Input, TemplateRef, ViewContainerRef } from '@angular/core';

@Directive({
  selector: '[bla]'
})
export class BlaDirective {

  @Input() set bla(value) {
    console.log(value);
  }

  constructor(
    private templateRef: TemplateRef<any>,
    private viewContainer: ViewContainerRef) { }
}
```

Structural directives need TemplateRef and ViewContainer.

**TODO** display the content of the template

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