

Basic HTML Tutorial

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HTML Structure

HTML, or hypertext markup language, is very simple to learn and very simple to use. HTML is used in most modern websites. HTML has two basic forms:

```
<name attribute1="value1" attribute2="value2">Content of 'name'</name>
```

and

```
<name attribute1="value1" attribute2="value2">
```

After you learn the basic form of HTML, you are ready to do some HTML coding. And just so you know, the capitalization of the name's of the basic structure and the attributes does not matter, while the capitalization of the values and contents of them do.

HTML pages always start with a DTD, or document type definition. This allows the web-browser to determine what type of HTML you are using as well as what language the characters are in. The type of DTD that I would recommend is:

```
<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD HTML 4.01 Transitional//EN">
```

After the DTD, you would continue with the HTML tag, like so:

```
<HTML>
```

...

```
</HTML>
```

HTML pages are broken into two main sections: the HEAD and the BODY, both contained within the HTML tags. The head contains the title and sometimes meta tags. The body contains the main page that everyone sees. A typical website looks something like this:

```
<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD HTML 4.01 Transitional//EN">
```

```
<HTML>
```

```
<HEAD>
```

...

```
</HEAD>
```

```
<BODY>
```

...

```
</BODY>
```

```
</HTML>
```

Page Title

The title is the most important element of a quality web page. The title allows people to know what they are visiting and represents the page. When search engines add your website to their database, they add the title as what you see when searching for what you want. Page titles are very useful for letting your guests know just what is on your website. There can only be one title per page, so only the first code read containing the title will be shown. In order to add a title use the following code:

```
<TITLE>this is the title</TITLE>
```

Please note that this is one of the tags that will go within the HEAD tags. Here is an example of a web page:

Title



Simple Headings

There are six different simple headings that can be used (H1 to H6). Many websites use headings. You can use the following code to make headers.

```
<H1>This is the Heading</H1>
```

```
<H2>This is the Heading</H2>
```

```
<H6>This is the Heading</H6>
```

Of the six different headings, <H1> produces the biggest, and <H6> produces the smallest. You can also center the headings by using the align attribute, as you can see here:

```
<H1 ALIGN="center">This is the centered Heading</H1>
```

Paragraphs

Paragraphs are very useful and should be used. They can be created by using the following code:

```
<P>This is a paragraph.</P>
```

```
<P>This is a second paragraph.</P>
```

New Lines/Spacing

New lines are very important for making any website. In order to create a new line you would add the following code:

```
<BR>
```

Spacing is also very important. When using HTML, you can use just a space, but only up to the first space. Beyond the first space, the web-browser will just ignore. In order to do any amount, you must use the following code for each space wanted:

```
&nbsp;
```

Horizontal rules

Horizontal lines can be added by doing the following code:

```
<HR>
```

You can also change the width of the line as well as align them to the left or right, as can be seen here:

```
<HR ALIGN="left" WIDTH="50%">
```

Please note that you can have the width in pixels instead of percentages as well. You can also change the height in pixels by doing the following:

```
<HR SIZE="5">
```

Comments

Comments are very useful for people that want to identify things in their HTML. They are used when multiple people update website. They are also used to "block" the HTML code. The user does not see a comment unless they view the source code. You can add a comment by doing the following:

```
<!-- This is the comment -->
```


Or you may bold by doing the following:

This is the text that it applies to

This is the text that it applies to

Or you may italicize using the following:

<I>This is the text that it applies to</I>

This is the text that it applies to

And another way to italicize is:

This is the text that it applies to

This is the text that it applies to

Or you may underline using the following:

<U>This is the text that it applies to</U>

This is the text that it applies to

Or you may strikethrough text by using the following:

~~<STRIKE>This is the text that it applies to</STRIKE>~~

~~This is the text that it applies to~~

Making Links

Links are extremely useful for bringing the user to another page that may be within your website, or may be another website that you think would be useful to others. You can create a simple link using the following code:

`This is the text that it applies to`

[This is the text that it applies to](#)

There are several different types of links, for local pages, you would use something like the above. For links to other sites, you may use something like the following:

`This is the text that it applies to`

[This is the text that it applies to](http://bobbys.us/tutorials.php)

There are many different things that you can do besides just simple links, but this is still very useful.

Making Links in new windows

You may occasionally need to open a new window for the user because you may not want them to leave you website or another reason. Many people these days do not like new windows though, and will just block all new windows. In fact in many 'top ten website mistakes', people place having new windows within the list. But if you want to make new windows, you can use the following code:

`This is the text that it applies to`

[This is the text that it applies to](http://bobbys.us/tutorials.php)

Making Links to email addresses

Many times you may also want to have a link to your email address. I personally do not like the method and would recommend using a script to send the mail for you, but it is always a good thing to know. To add a link to you can use the following code:

`E-mail me`

[E-mail me](mailto:admin@bobbys.us)

Please be warned, it is dangerous to place your email address like this, there are many crawlers out there just looking for emails like this. Once crawlers collect emails, lists are sold to spammers. This is how many people get a lot of spam.

Linking to somewhere in the page

You may also have a large page and want to link to different pieces of the webpage. In order to do this, first you must make location to link to. You can do this by using the 'name' attribute on the 'A' element, as can be seen here:

```
<A NAME="section1">Section One - Downloads</A>
```

This would create a place to link to called 'section1'. You can link to it by using the following code:

```
<A HREF="#section1">Go to downloads</A>
```

or by putting the name of the HTML document, like so:

```
<A HREF="tutorials.php#section1">Go to downloads</A>
```

Adding images

You may also want to create image. Images are simple to add, and are very useful for showing pictures or diagrams. To add an image you can use the following code:

```
<IMG SRC="images/one.gif" ALT="alternate text">
```

Once you add an image, you may notice that there is a border when you make the image a link. In order to get rid of this you will have to change the border attribute. Here is an example of how to change the border to a size of 0:

```
<IMG SRC="images/one.gif" ALT="alternate text" BORDER="0">
```

Centering Text

When making your page, you may also want to center your header or whatever else. In order to center text you make use the following code:

```
<CENTER>This is the text that it applies to</CENTER>
```

This is the text that it applies to

Special Characters

In many cases you may find that you may need to insert special characters. They are very simple to insert, if you know what each character is. As you may remember we added a space by using . Other special characters can be added by doing & followed by the code for them, which can be found [here](#) (please note: this is not on my site), and then you would place a semi-colon afterwards. here are some examples:

```
&#169; produces ©
```

```
&#38; produces &
```

```
&#162; produces ¢
```

```
&#174; produces ®
```

```
&#177; produces ±
```

```
&#178; produces _
```

etc...

Lists

You may also have lists of items that you will need to add. There are several types of lists. The two most common ones are ordered and unordered lists. Ordered lists are called ordered lists because they have numbers for people to

be guided by. Here is an example of an ordered list:

```
<OL>
<LI>Item one</LI>
<LI>Item two</LI>
<LI>Item three</LI>
</OL>
```

1. Item one
2. Item two
3. Item three

There are also different types of ordered lists. Here is an example of a specific type of ordered list:

```
<OL TYPE="I">
<LI>Item one</LI>
<LI>Item two</LI>
<LI>Item three</LI>
</OL>
```

- I. Item one
- II. Item two
- III. Item three

The 'TYPE' attribute can contain one the following types: 1, a, A, i, or I.

Unordered lists are similar to ordered lists, except that they have bullets instead of numbers. Here is an example of an unordered list:

```
<UL>
<LI>Item one</LI>
<LI>Item two</LI>
<LI>Item three</LI>
</UL>
```

- Item one
- Item two
- Item three

Tables

Tables are used in many websites. Although they are not always seen, tables are very good at aligning certain things. In fact, this website uses tables, but you probably cannot see them. Tables have many attributes that can be modified to fit exactly what you want. Simple tables can be added by doing the following:

```
<TABLE BORDER="1">
<TR>
<TD>top left</TD>
<TD>top right</TD>
</TR>
<TR>
<TD>bottom left</TD>
<TD>bottom right</TD>
</TR>
</TABLE>
```

top left	top right
bottom left	bottom right

Here is what it would look like without a border:

```
<TABLE>
```

```

<TR>
<TD>top left</TD>
<TD>top right</TD>
</TR>
<TR>
<TD>bottom left</TD>
<TD>bottom right</TD>
</TR>
</TABLE>
top left          top right
bottom left      bottom right

```

You can simple add more rows by adding another <TR> with the columns. Here is an example with five rows:

```

<TABLE BORDER="1">
<TR>
<TD>top left</TD>
<TD>top right</TD>
</TR>
<TR>
<TD>row 2 - left</TD>
<TD>row 2 - right</TD>
</TR>
<TR>
<TD>row 3 - left</TD>
<TD>row 3 - right</TD>
</TR>
<TR>
<TD>row 4 - left</TD>
<TD>row 4 - right</TD>
</TR>
<TR>
<TD>bottom left</TD>
<TD>bottom right</TD>
</TR>
</TABLE>

```

top left	top right
row 2 - left	row 2 - right
row 3 - left	row 3 - right
row 4 - left	row 4 - right
bottom left	bottom right

You can also add columns by just adding a <TD> in each of the rows. Here is an example:

```

<TABLE BORDER="1">
<TR>
<TD>top left</TD>
<TD>top - column 2</TD>
<TD>top - column 3</TD>
<TD>top right</TD>
</TR>
<TR>
<TD>bottom left</TD>
<TD>bottom - column 2</TD>
<TD>bottom - column 3</TD>
<TD>bottom right</TD>

```

</TR>
</TABLE>

top left	top - column 2	top - column 3	top right
bottom left	bottom - column 2	bottom - column 3	bottom right

<TH> can be used instead of <TD>. The difference between the two is that TH is bolded and centered, whereas TD is left aligned and unbolded. There are also many more attributes for each column and row as well as the tables.

Much more...

There are also many more attributes and elements that I did not cover. You can visit <http://www.w3.org/> to find all of the types of elements, now that you know the basics of HTML. One good HTML cheatsheet is located at <http://www.webmonkey.com/>. And of course, look at what people have done on their website, by going to 'View Source,' it is a great way to learn HTML code.

Validity of your page

When you are done making your page, it is a good idea to make sure that it is valid. w3.org has created an online website validator. You can find their validator here: [The W3C Markup Validation Service](#)