

Web Design 1A

First Website – Intro to Basic HTML

So we're set? Have your text-editor ready. Be sure you use NotePad, NOT Word or even WordPad. Great, let's get going.

Ok, let's just go through the steps involved before I actually introduce the code. Today,

- you will write out the basic **format**, or skeleton, of a HTML page
- you will save it as a **HTML file**
- you will open it in your **browser**
- you will smile at the fact that it actually worked

A basic page format

All pages follow this basic structure. Let's start with the first **tags** you're going to learn.

Tags?

Yeah. They are the things between the < > brackets. I'm sure you've seen them in someone's code before, and if you haven't, right click on a web page and select '**View Source**'. The code behind the page will appear. Have a quick glance through it. Yes, it probably makes no sense, but that doesn't matter yet. See how, later on, there's some text? You can see the words you're reading on the page. Surrounding all that is a load of stuff, all being encased by these brackets < >. That's all the stuff that goes into making a webpage.

Structure of Tags

Tags follow a common structure. For example, to make text **bold**, you use the tag **b**. So, at the point in your text that you want the bold text to start, you just stick the triangle-brackets around **b** like this: . Then, when you want it to stop bolding, you put . That is an **end tag**. It is simply the start tag with a **forward slash** in front of the word or letter. Some tags won't need that end tag, but most do, so don't forget it.

So let's make a page

Ok, first step. Open **Notepad** on a PC, or **Simpletext** on a Mac. Type this :

```
<html>  
</html>
```

These are the standard start and end tags on any page. Note that when I say 'standard', that means '**you must put it there**'. This pair is called **container tags** because they will have other elements contained inside them, like a stack of mixing bowls.

Now we'll add in the rest of the structure. Modify your page to this :

```
<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD HTML 4.01 Transitional//EN"
"http://www.w3.org/TR/1999/REC-html401-19991224/loose.dtd">
```

```
<html>
```

```
<head>
<title>My First HTML Page</title>
</head>
```

```
<body>
```

```
</body>
```

```
</html>
```

That complicated looking bit at the top isn't something you need to worry about just yet. It basically tells your browser which version of HTML you're using in your page. You are going to be using *HTML 4.01*, the most recent version of HTML. Later you may move to *XHTML* or *CSS*, but HTML 4 is fine for your first few sites.

The <head> tag

HTML pages are made up of two distinct parts — the <head> part, and the <body> part. The head part contains things that won't appear on your page. Most of the tags that go in the head part are advanced stuff for search engines and the like, so the only one you really need to know is `title`.

<title> is the text that appears at the top of your Internet Browser, and on the taskbar. The title does not appear on the page itself. You can type whatever text you want in that. Just plain text, no other tags will work, although special characters like punctuation will. Don't forget to add the `title`, because without it, that bar will have the URL (web address) of your page in it, and that's just ugly. This text will also be used if a reader bookmarks your page, and in search engine listings, so take the time to write a unique title that makes sense for each page.

The <body> tag

<body> is the **main part** of your page. Everything between those two container tags will be visible on your page. So type something there now. Whatever you want, I don't care. Be spontaneous.

Now your page looks something like this :

```
<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD HTML 4.01 Transitional//EN"
"http://www.w3.org/TR/1999/REC-html401-19991224/loose.dtd">

<html>
<head>
<title>my first html page</title>
</head>

<body>
Hello, I hope you're having as much fun reading this as I had writing
it!
</body>
</html>
```

Saving your masterpiece

Saving is a tricky area, so, before we get to saving, please make a new folder in your home drive and call it **website**.

Now you need to give your document a file-extension to tell your computer what type of file this is. You are editing the page in a text-editor called Notepad, which saves in the format `.txt` (TeXT file) . You have written some text, but you want a file that is in the `.html` format, since it is meant to be a web page.

Here are the steps for **saving as** a web page:

1. Click **File | Save As...** Find the place on your hard drive where you want to keep all your pages (again, make sure you created a new folder 📁 called **website** to keep all of your pages together).
2. In the dropdown list box labeled 'save as type' change it to '**all files *.***'. This means that you can save the data (in this case, some text) into any format.
3. Name your file **index.html** and click **save**.
4. That's it.

After you have done this once, if you ever change your code, you only need to press *save*, not *save as*, because the computer now knows this is an html file.

Rules for naming files for websites

Your page's filename can consist of any combination of letters, numbers or _ (underscore) and – (dash) characters. NO SPACES! Never use punctuation in a webpage's name. It is a good practice to start the filename with a letter and **use lowercase letters** at all times. This will make sure that few capitalization-caused errors will not occur by

people trying to type your page's address into their browser. You should always call your homepage *index.html* — this will be important later on.

Having a Look

Well, you've been toiling away on this page for hours, has it paid off? Let's check...

- Open My Computer and browse to your H:\ (or Home) drive.
- Find the folder you saved your page in.... and find the file you just saved (index.html, unless you were cheeky and called it something else - make sure it's called index.html!)
- Double click on the webpage file (not the txt file), the icon should look like a webpage shortcut. Your page will appear in all it's glory. You did it!



A webpage icon looks like this.

Seriously, well done. You actually created something that you couldn't have managed before you started. That's progress kid.

Assignment 1

- Modify the web page you just made by using some of the tags found on the following pages. At a minimum, I want to see samples of text that is:

- **Bold**
- underlined
- *italics*

I also want to see you place **an image** and **a link** on your page.

GOOD: Doing the minimum gets you the minimum mark (50%) to pass.

BETTER: If you want to improve, add more code, such as colored text and background. This gets you an 80% mark on the assignment. Although you can, please don't put a background image on your page. I hate that, its bad design and makes everything hard to read.

BEST: After you are done the minimum requirements above, or if you want to get fancy (and a mark of 90-100%), try some of the code on www.lissaexplains.com or www.dynamicdrive.com. There is some pretty cool stuff there. Be careful though, some of the codes will only work in Internet Explorer and not Firefox.


You can even search the web for more HTML tutorial websites, there are tons out there.

Save your page as index.html and show it to Mr.E for marking when done.

HTML Tags Chart

To use any of the following HTML tags, simply select the HTML code you'd like and copy and paste it into your web page.

Tag	Name	Code Example	Browser View
<a -	anchor	Visit Our Site	Visit Our Site
	bold	Example	Example
<big>	big (text)	<big>Example</big>	Example
 	line break	The contents of your page The contents of your page	The contents of your web page The contents of your web page
<center>	center	<center>This will center your contents</center>	This will center your contents
	emphasis	This is an Example of using the emphasis tag	This is an <i>Example</i> of using the emphasis tag
	font	Example	Example
	font	Example	Example
	font	Example	Example

<h1><h1></h1> <h2><h2></h2> <h3><h3></h3> <h4><h4></h4> <h5><h5></h5> <h6><h6></h6>	heading 1 heading 2 heading 3 heading 4 heading 5 heading 6	<h1><h1>Heading 1 Example</h1></h1> <h2><h2>Heading 2 Example</h2></h2> <h3><h3>Heading 3 Example</h3></h3> <h4><h4>Heading 4 Example</h4></h4> <h5><h5>Heading 5 Example</h5></h5> <h6><h6>Heading 6 Example</h6></h6>	<h1>Heading 1</h1> <h2>Heading 2</h2> <h3>Heading 3</h3> <h4>Heading 4</h4> <h5>Heading 5</h5> <h6>Heading 6</h6>
<hr>	horizontal rule	<hr />	Contents of your web page <hr/> Contents of your web page
<hr> (Internet Explorer)	horizontal rule	<hr width="75%" color="#ff0000" size="4" />	Contents of your web page <hr style="border: 2px solid red;"/> Contents of your web page
<i>	italic	<i>Example</i>	<i>Example</i>
	image		
	ordered list	Numbered List item 1 List item 2 List item 3 List item 4 	Numbered <ol style="list-style-type: none"> List item 1 List item 2 List item 3 List item 4
<p>	paragraph	This is an example displaying the use of the paragraph tag. <p> This will create a line break and a space between lines. Attributes: Example 1: <p align="left"> This is an example displaying the use of the paragraph tag. Example 2: 	This is an example displaying the use of the paragraph tag. This will create a line break and a space between lines. Attributes: Example 1: This is an example displaying the use of the paragraph tag. <div style="text-align: right;">Example 2:</div>

		<div>
 <p align="right"> This is an example
 displaying the use
 of the paragraph tag.

 Example 3:

 <p align="center"> This is an example
 displaying the use
 of the paragraph tag.</div>	<div>This is an example displaying the use of the paragraph tag.</div> <div>Example 3:</div> <div>This is an example displaying the use of the paragraph tag.</div>		
<small>	small (text)	<small>Example</small>	Example		
<strike>	deleted text	<strike>Example</strike>	Example		
	strong emphasis	Example	Example		
<table>	table	<div>Example 1:</div> <div><table border="4" cellpadding="2" cellspacing="2" width="100%"> <tr> <td>Column 1</td> <td>Column 2</td> </tr> </table></div>	<div>Example 1:</div> <table><tr><td>Column 1</td><td>Column 2</td></tr></table>	Column 1	Column 2
Column 1	Column 2				
<u>	underline	<u>Example</u>	<u>Example</u>		
	unordered list	<div>Example 1:

 List item 1 List item 2
</div>	<div>Example 1:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">List item 1List item 2		