

Lesson 8: Introduction to HTML.

What is HTML?

HTML stands for Hypertext Markup Language. It is the language of the Web. HTML files are text files that are written in a format that allows them to be displayed on the Web.

An HTML file can be created using a simple text editor (ie. Wordpad, Notepad, TextEdit, etc). You must make sure to save the file using the .html extension.

What is XHTML?

XHTML stands for Extensible Hypertext Markup Language. It is the next generation of HTML and provides some more structure and guidelines to HTML. XHTML is used with CSS stylesheets (we will talk about this in an upcoming lesson) and separates the document in such a way that lends more flexibility to web design. We will be coding in HTML, using certain aspects of XHTML.

What is a tag?

A tag is an HTML command. It is written between angle brackets (less than and greater than symbols). Ex. <html>

Some tags are a bit lengthier and provide options within the tag itself. These options are selected by the web designer (in this case, YOU!).

For example, <body bgcolor="blue">

These tags are still a command, but they are slightly more specific. They are attributes that have values associated to them by the designers. All values are surrounded by quotation marks, in this case, BLUE is the value.

Most tags are opened and then closed. The content goes between the opening and the closing. There are some stand alone tags but we will discuss some of those later. For now, remember that tags must be opened and closed for the most part.

For example: Dee's Page

This tag makes the text "Dee's page" appear in **bold** text. The tag is exactly the same except for the inclusion of the "/" symbol, which closes the tag. If you did not close the tag, the browser would make everything after the opening of the bold tag appear in bold. Yikes!

Good web design behavior requires that all tags be in lower case. This makes all browsers read your code properly and interpret it the way you intended.

Basic Tags

- **<html>** - the opening tag on every html page. It signals to the browser that this is an html file. The end of the page will be coded **</html>** for the browser to close.
- **<head>** - indicates the heading of the document. Nothing written here will show up on the page but you, the designer, can store specific information here such as key words you want search engines to associate with your page and the title.
- **<title>**- this is the page's title. It does not show up on the page but on the browser's title bar. Always have a title for all your pages and remember to close **</title>**.
- **<body>** - This is the meat of your page. Your content will sit in between the opening and closing of your body tag and will contain font tags, paragraph tags, and other tags.
- ****- this will make your text bold. Don't forget to close! **** in XHTML.
- **<i>** - this will make your text italic. Don't forget to close! **** in XHTML.
- **<h1>, <h2>, <h3> etc...**- these are various heading sizes. You can use these as headings for paragraphs on your page. Try them out to see the differences!
- **<p>** -indicates the beginning of a paragraph. Separates from your previous text with a space.
- **
**-puts a line break (space) where you want it, without being a separate paragraph.

Sample HTML file format

```
<html>
<head>
<title>Dee's Web Page</title>
</head>

<body bgcolor="blue">
<h1>Dee's Awesome Web Page</h1>
<p> Welcome to my <strong>super cool</strong> page! </p>

<h2>Introduction</h2>
<p> This is my personal site. It includes information about me and my resume</p>

<p>I will try to update as often as possible!</p>

<h2>Hobbies</h2>
<p>This is where I will tell you about my hobbies!</h2>

<h2>Contact Info.</h2>
<p>For more information, you can email me at yourname@something.com </p>

</body>
</html>
```