

# HTML Workshop 1

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## *Introduction to HTML*

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## ***Introduction***

Html is used to build web pages. Html (Hypertext Markup Language) is the code building blocks that can create the colour, layout, style, fonts and text, forms and many other aspects of a web page.

It is important to note that using html is like writing in a new language. Html exists separately from any software that you may use to make your web pages with. So, Dreamweaver, FrontPage, Ace HTML or other Web Editors enhance the web developer's experience of building web pages. They do not create them.

In order to introduce html in the clearest way, we will use notepad (a text document) to build our first page.

## ***Main elements of a web page***

A web page has three main elements (or tags):

Html

Head

Body

Each element is open and closed with `<>` and `</>`.

The html tag is the outside container that holds all the other code. Nothing appears outside the html tags, so `<html>` is at the top of the page, and `</html>` is at the bottom, below all other code. It signifies the end of the code.

The head tag holds all the code that holds information about the web page, or other scripting language commands to make things work in the web page. You cannot see anything in the head section apart from the title of the web page, which is shown in the browser header. The head tag begins with `<head>` and ends with `</head>` to close off the head section.

The body tag holds everything you can see in the web page. It begins with `<body>` and ends with `</body>`. All the images, text, forms or anything else you may see in a web page is written here.

## ***Getting Started***

Make a folder, call it 'website1'. Open your text editor (text document or notepad), and create a text document in the folder.

Carry out the following exercises:

```
<html>
<head>
  <title></title>
</head>
<body>
</body>
</html>
```

Fig 1: main elements of a webpage

## ***Exercises #1***

### **Step 1**

Copy the text shown in Fig 1 into your text document.

### **Step 2**

In between the <body> and </body> tag, type the following:

*Hello, this is my first web page!*

### **Step 3**

Save your text file as webtext.txt. Then save the text file as an html file by selecting 'Save As' from the File menu. Save the file as index.html. Now open the html file you have just created. It should only say 'hello, this is my first web page!' If it shows any of the other code, you have made a mistake.

### **Step 4**

Reopen your webtext.txt. Now add a title to your page by placing it between the title tags. Make sure it looks like this:

*<title>My First Web Page</title>*

Save again as index.html. This should now show up in the top of the browser window, (if you are using Internet Explorer to view your page, it appears next to the 'Microsoft Internet Explorer' message).

To speed things up, you can right click/view source to see and edit the code if you are using Internet Explorer to view your webpage.

NB You can view the source of any page on the Internet with this method, but you cannot edit the code!

### **Step 5**

Now try changing the colour of the webpage by adding something to the opening body tag:

*<body bgcolor="#80C9FF">*

*(Note that 'bgcolor' is html code for background colour, and that colour is spelt the American way. All code is written with American spelling!)*

This should change the colour of the whole page to blue. Make note of the hexadecimal colour code used to create the colour blue. Hexadecimal code can make 256 colour variants. For a fuller explanation and selection of colours, go to

**[http://www.w3schools.com/html/html\\_colors.asp](http://www.w3schools.com/html/html_colors.asp)**.

### **Step 6**

Some Other Tags:

<font></font> Controls how a text font appears in html. Try using this like this:

*<font size="1" face="Arial">Hello!</font>*

This should change your font to Arial, and alter its size. Experiment with adding 'color="red",' or add a hexadecimal colour like we did to the body tag. Remember to spell colour like Americans – 'color'!

`<p>your text here...blah blah blah</p>` Is the html tag for a paragraph

Try also using

```
<h1>text</h1>
<h2>test</h2>
<h3>text</h3>
```

These are the standard heading 'mark up' tags for headings in html text. They prioritise heading styles, just like in a word document. When we come to using CSS, we will see how to control the style of these tags.

`<b></b>` is an html bold tag

`<strong></strong>` is also an html bold tag

`<i></i>` is the html italic tag

And some layout tags:

`<hr>` is a horizontal line tag – note there is no closing tag. You can style this tag like this:

```
<hr size="1" noShade color="blue">
```

`<br>` OR `<br />` is a line 'break'. It is used like this:

```
The cat sat on the mat
<br>
The cat did not sit on the mat
<br>
```

This tag places a space between the lines of text – try it. The line break tag is also written like this `<br />` for xhtml, which is slightly more advanced. You can use either version in html.

## Step 7

Write some text in your webpage, using different styling and colours for the fonts. Use different fonts and different colour headings.

## Hyperlinks

A hyperlink is the proper term for a link on a web page. There are two types of hyperlink, GLOBAL and LOCAL.

A GLOBAL hyperlink looks like this:

```
<a href=http://www.londonmet.ac.uk>link to Uni</a>
```

Note it includes the http://www part of a link

A LOCAL link looks like this:

```
<a href="page2.html">next page</a>
```

Note that the tag to the link is always like this:

```
<a href="">link</a>
```

The text that is written between the tag and close tag is all that is visible on the web page, the rest is code that makes it work.

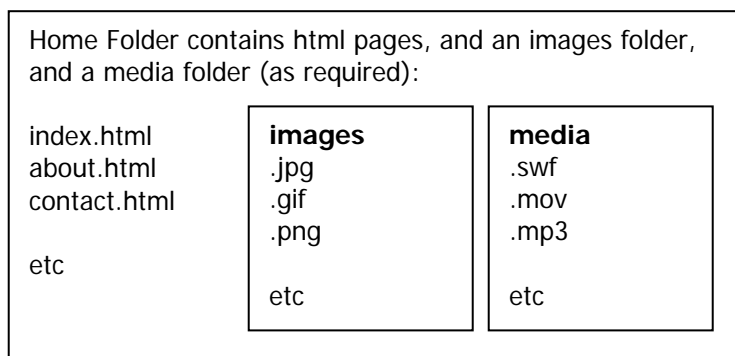
## ***Exercises #2***

Try everything in the hyperlinks section. Of course, if you want to link to 'page2.html', you will have to make another page! Do this the way you made the first page.

When you have made page2.html and put some content in, be sure to place a link on it back to the first page – this is important!

## ***Folder Conventions***

Folder conventions refer to how you design your folder 'tree' for a website. This is so that content is easy to find and the website is tidy and easy to administer. Usually, the folder tree is designed as follows:



Using this design allows you to use only the name of the page as a link, like we did earlier – keeping the link nice and short. It also keeps all the html in the main folder.

Placing all the images in the images folder keeps them tidy and away from all the html pages. If you want an image in a page, you must place the image in the images folder, and link to it.

This is the main tag to link to an image:

```

```

### **Exercises #3**

Place the following code into your page and see how it looks. Experiment with it, to change the layout, or the image. Make sure you have 2 jpg images in your images folder, and call them pic1 and pic2, to use for the test.

```
<font face="Arial">here is my photo:</font>
<br><br>

<br><br>
<a href="index.html"></a>
```

The last line of code shows how to make an image a link. See if you can make some more like this.

### **Note on images in web pages**

Remember to use the following formats for images used in web pages

- .jpg
- .gif
- .png

Gif and png can make transparent backgrounds. This is useful in web pages. All the formats can make good quality images as small file sizes, and this is very important for web pages to help with download times. Even though we now have fast broadband connections, we still need efficient web page design and development.

The jpg format is commonly used for photographs and uses RGB colour. Gifs are used for icons or other graphic images and use index colour. Png is the open source version of gif.

**NB** when you use an image in a web page, you actually link to the image. This requires that you upload your image files as well as your html when you upload your website to a server.

***To view your website, you MUST upload your website work to the university server, on your 'W' drive. Please refer to other worksheets and information on how to do this.***

### **External Tutorials**

- A full compliment of html tags is available here:

<http://www.htmlhelp.com/reference/wilbur/list.html>

And here:

[http://www.web-source.net/html\\_codes\\_chart.htm](http://www.web-source.net/html_codes_chart.htm)

- To become proficient at html, visit some of the many online tutorials available and practise writing web pages. For example, try the web standards tutorials:

<http://www.w3schools.com/html/>

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