

An Introduction to HTML

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Introduction

What is HTML

Software used to write HTML documents

Not all web browsers display your page the same (see http://hotwired.lycos.com/webmonkey/reference/browser_chart/)

Screen resolution/size

Some Netscape and Microsoft HTML tags are not compatible

General Conventions to Use In your HTML Code :

All HTML tags in uppercase for easier code reading/checking

Indent lists to make code easier to read and check

HTML Syntax

<TAG> </TAG> Open and closing tags surround the text or graphic to be modified

HTML Document Elements

<HTML> </HTML>	Identifies the document as an HTML document
<HEAD> </HEAD>	Contains generic document information
<BODY> </BODY>	Container for the document's body

The document header <HEAD></HEAD>

<TITLE> </TITLE>	Document title seen in browser title bar. Should be meaningful description of document and no longer than 64 characters.
<META>	Stores document information (1000 characters maximum)
<META NAME = "DESCRIPTION" CONTENT="xxxx">	
<META NAME="KEYWORDS" CONTENT="xxxx, yyyy, zzzz">	
<META HTTP-EQUIV="REFRESH" CONTENT="5:URL=http://www.anotherSite.com">	

The document body <BODY></BODY>

<BODY... BACKGROUND="URL"	Link to background wallpaper
BGCOLOR="#rrggbb"	Background page color
ALINK="#rrggbb"	Active link color when clicked on
LINK="#rrggbb"	Link color for unvisited links
VLINK="#rrggbb"	Link color for visited links
TEXT="#rrggbb"	Normal text color
NOTE: For color values, see http://www.stevegreenstein.com/yuba/colors.htm and also http://www.w3schools.com/html/html_colornames.asp	

Text control/layout elements

 	Controls font color or size
SIZE="n"	Font size
FACE="fontname1, fontname2"	Font style
COLOR="#rrggbb" or "colorName"	Font color
NOTE: For color values, see http://www.stevegreenstein.com/yuba/colors.htm and also http://www.w3schools.com/html/html_colornames.asp	

<H1-H6> </H1-H6>	Heading text size
<I> </I>	Italics
 	Bold
 	Line break
<HR>	Horizontal rule
SIZE="n"	Horizontal rule height
WIDTH="n"	Horizontal rule width
COLOR="#rrggbb" or "colorName"	Horizontal rule color (Internet Explorer only)
<CENTER> </CENTER>	Center command

<P> </P>(Closing tag optional)	Paragraph
ALIGN=LEFT CENTER RIGHT JUSTIFY	
<PRE> </PRE>	Preformats text
<!-- -->	Notes or comments (hidden from the viewer)

Graphics

	Specifies an image to include
SRC="url"	Image source file
ALIGN=LEFT RIGHT CENTER TOP BOTTOM	Image/text alignment
ALT="text"	Text alternative for image
BORDER="n"	Image border width
HEIGHT="n"	Image height in pixels
WIDTH="n"	Image width in pixels
LOWSRC="url"	Low resolution image (Netscape only)
HSPACE="n"	Horizontal distance from image for text to begin
VSPACE="n"	Vertical distance from image for text to begin

Links

<A> 	Defines anchors or links
 	Link to another page
 	Names a placeholder in a page
 	Jump to a named placeholder
 xxx 	Email link

Lists

 	Ordered list (1. 2. 3. etc.)
TYPE= CIRCLE DISC SQUARE	
 	Unordered list (bulleted list)
TYPE= CIRCLE DISC SQUARE	
	List item

Where to Go For Help

Yahoo HTML Reference List:

http://dir.yahoo.com/Computers_and_Internet/Data_Formats/HTML/Guides_and_Tutorials/

HTML Editors

http://cws.internet.com/32html.html	Basic HTML editors for entry level web sites
http://cws.internet.com/32advhtml.html	Advanced HTML editors for high end web sites
http://cws.internet.com/32dhtml.html	Dynamic HTML editors for bleeding-edge web design

Low End

Any word processor (Save files as ASCII text)
Windows Write, Notepad, WordPad

Medium

HotDog Pro:	http://www.sausage.com/products/index.html
Web Express:	http://www.mvd.com
HTML Assistant Pro:	http://www.exit0.com/ns/home.html
Webedit Pro:	http://www.webedpro.com/
Microsoft FrontPage Express (Internet Explorer 4.0):	http://www.microsoft.com
Netscape Composer (Netscape 4.0):	http://www.netscape.com

High End

Microsoft FrontPage:	http://www.microsoft.com
HotMetal PRO:	http://www.softquad.com
NetObjects Fusion:	http://www.netobjects.com
Cold Fusion, Dreamweaver	http://www.allaire.com/

Useful Graphics Tools

Web graphics tools: <http://cws.internet.com/32webimage.html>

ULead Systems: <http://www.ulead.com>

Extensis: <http://www.extensis.com>

Adobe: <http://www.adobe.com>

Macromedia: <http://www.macromedia.com>