

## Basic HTML Page Structure

```
<HTML>
<HEAD>
<TITLE>Page Title</TITLE>
</HEAD>
<BODY>
<!--Insert page content here-->
</BODY>
</HTML>
```

## Structure and Page Header Tags

**<HTML>...</HTML>** is placed at the beginning and end of the document to delineate the HTML document.

**<HEAD>...</HEAD>** defines the head (also called the "header") portion of the document. Enclose the `<title>` tag and other general page information tags (such as `<meta>`, `<base>`, and `<style>`) in this block. Java scripts and Visual basic scripts (`<SCRIPT>`) are also found here.

**<TITLE>** displays the title of your page, which appears in the title bar of your browser and is the default name of the bookmark.

**<META>** provides additional information about the document. It is commonly used for making documents searchable by adding key words (although many search engines are no longer using meta tags for their searches)

Sample	Result
<code>&lt;META HTTP-EQUIV="Context-Type" CONTENT="text/html; CHARSET=windows-1252"&gt;</code>	Browsers with other language settings will display special characters properly.
<code>&lt;META HTTP-EQUIV="Refresh" CONTENT="5"&gt;</code>	Browser refreshes page every 5 seconds.
<code>&lt;META HTTP-EQUIV="Refresh" CONTENT="5"; URL=http://www.microsoft.com"&gt;</code>	Browser redirects visitor to Microsoft.com after 5 seconds.
<code>&lt;META NAME="keywords" content="translation, Spanish, English, translator, interpreting, interpreter"&gt;</code>	Keywords for your page are available to search engines that use them.
<code>&lt;META NAME="description" content="summary that you would like displayed"&gt;</code>	This text is used as the displayed description in the search engines (should not exceed 170-200 words)

**<BASE>** sets a "base" web address for hyperlinks (instead of the page location) or it is used on a frames page to specify the target frame for hyperlinks.

Sample	Result
<code>&lt;BASE HREF="http://www.jill-sommer.com/en"&gt;</code>	All relative hyperlinks refer to pages on the specified web site, even if the page isn't located there.
<code>&lt;BASE TARGET=main&gt;</code>	All hyperlinks load their pages into the "main" frame.

**<BODY>...</BODY>** contains the displayed contents of the document. You can add attributes to control the appearance of your whole page, including text and background colors.

Sample	Result
<code>&lt;BODY BGCOLOR="#cccc99" TEXT="#003300"&gt;</code>	Sets page background and text colors.
<code>&lt;BODY LINK="#993300" ALINK="#cc6600"&gt;</code>	Sets normal, active, and visited hyperlink

VLINK="#99333">  
<BODY BACKGROUND="images/bkgd.gif">  
<BODY LEFTMARGIN=0 TOPMARGIN=0  
MARGINWIDTH=0 MARGINHEIGHT=0

colors.  
Specifies a background image.  
Page appears at top left corner of browser window. Use all four attributes to support both Internet Explorer and Netscape.

<SCRIPT>...</SCRIPT> and <NOSCRIPT>...</NOSCRIPT> provides script code such as JavaScript for your page. You can also use a <NOSCRIPT> block to provide alternate HTML for browsers that don't understand scripts.

Sample	Result
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This is an actual script from my web site.

```
<script language="JavaScript" type="text/javascript"><!--  
  
// Checks to see if page was loaded without main window,  
// if not loads frameset.  
if(top==self) {  
    var mainwindow = "index.htm"  
    var currURL = unescape(window.location.pathname);  
    var newURL = mainwindow + "?" + currURL;  
  
    var appVer = navigator.appVersion;  
    var NS = (navigator.appName == 'Netscape') && ((appVer.indexOf('3') != -1) ||  
(appVer.indexOf('4') != -1));  
    var MSIE = (appVer.indexOf('MSIE 4') != -1);  
    if (NS || MSIE)  
        location.replace(newURL);  
    else  
        location.href = newURL;  
}  
//-->  
</script>
```

<STYLE>...</STYLE> provides cascading style sheet (CSS) style rules for the page. CSS are a bit too complicated to go into here, but you should be aware of what the tag looks like. If you want consistent formatting for your site and don't want to change the HTML font code every single page if you decide to change the font from Arial to Comic Sans MS, for example, you may want to read a book on cascading style sheets.

<!-- comment --> allows you to add notes in your HTML that do not appear on the page in your browser.

## Headings, Paragraph, and Line Breaks

<H1>...</H1> through <H6>...</H6> specifies that the text is a heading. There are six different levels of headings, each with its own specific formatting. Level 1 headings are large, while level 6 headings are smaller than ordinary text. Headings are left-aligned by default, but you change that by adding attributes such as **align=center** or **align=right** within the tag itself.

<P>...</P> creates paragraphs with space before and after it. The end tag is optional, but recommended (and required if you use style sheets). You can also add attributes such as **align=center/left/right** within the tag.

Sample	Result
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<P ALIGN=CENTER>This is a paragraph.</P> The text is centered and has a blank line above and below it.

<P STYLE="margin-top:6;margin-bottom:6"> Use it if you want P closer to its neighbors.</P> The text has 6 pixels between it and other paragraphs.

<BR> breaks the text by starting a new line but not adding extra space like the <P>. There is no close tag for this HTML code.

<BLOCKQUOTE>...</BLOCKQUOTE> displays text with an indent in the left and right margins and added space above and below the paragraph. *I love this tag! Highlight all your text using CTRL+A and use the <blockquote> tag to tighten it up and make it look better in the browser.*

<DIV>...</DIV> and <SPAN>...</SPAN> denote the beginning and end of a division of the page. They are often used with style sheets.

Sample	Result
<DIV ALIGN=CENTER>This text is now centered.</DIV>	Section is centered, with a line break before and after
This predicament is utterly <SPAN CLASS="crazy">mad</SPAN>	The word "mad" takes on style characteristics defined for the <i>crazy</i> class in a style sheet.

## Text Formatting

<FONT>...</FONT> sets the typeface and the font for a block of text (but it will only be displayed in that font if the exact font is installed on the visitors' computer). You can add attributes such as color, face, and size.

<B>...</B> or <STRONG>...</STRONG> makes the text between it **Bold**

<I>...</I> or <EM>...</EM> makes the text between it *Italics*

<U>...</U> makes the text between it Underlined

<TT>...</TT> makes the text look like a typewriter (monospaced)

<PRE>...</PRE> keeps all its original tabs and spaces (preformatted)

<BIG>...</BIG> sets the type one font size larger than the surrounding text.

<SMALL>...</SMALL> sets the type one font size smaller than the surrounding text.

<BLINK>...</BLINK> causes the text between it to blink on and off.

<HR> displays a horizontal rule across the page.

<DL> creates a definition list, consisting of terms (<DT>) and definitions (<DD>)

<UL> creates an ordered list, consisting of list items (<LI>). You can add attributes such as the bullet style (disc, circle or square) within the list item tag (such as "type=square").

<IMG> displays a GIF, JPEG, or PNG image.

## "Drop an anchor to create a link": Creating Hyperlinks

<A HREF="URL">http://www.outsideURL.com</A> links to an external web site

<A HREF="Anchor name">Anchor</A> and <A HREF="#Anchor name">Anchor</A> link to a predetermined location (bookmark) within your site

<A HREF="mailto:Your e-mail address">user@domain.com</A> links to an e-mail address

<A HREF="news:newsgroup.name">alt.rec.translation</A> fires up your default newsgroup reader and lets you read the newsgroup

<IMG SRC="filename"> links to a graphic and allows it to be displayed on the page

<IMG SRC="filename" ALIGN=top/middle/bottom/left/right> allows you to align the graphic however you choose

<IMG SRC="filename" ALT="alternative text"> displays an alternative text if a graphic is not displayed. Some visitors with slower connections turn off graphics and the "alternative text" anchor shows what would be displayed and lets them decide whether or not to load the graphic.

These are just a few of the most common HTML tags. We have not even touched on table tags, but this handout only serves as a brief introduction. There are entire books and web sites devoted to HTML and its various tags.

**Some recommended sites:**

Bare Bones Guide to HTML	<a href="http://www.werbach.com/barebones">www.werbach.com/barebones</a>
Elated.com	<a href="http://www.elated.com">www.elated.com</a>
Web Design Group	<a href="http://www.htmlhelp.com">www.htmlhelp.com</a>
The HTML Reference Library	<a href="http://www.arachne.net/htmlib/">www.arachne.net/htmlib/</a>
Network Communication Design	<a href="http://www.ncdesign.org">www.ncdesign.org</a>
W3C site on CSS	<a href="http://www.w3.org/Style/CSS/">www.w3.org/Style/CSS/</a>
RichInStyle (CSS)	<a href="http://www.richinstyle.com">www.richinstyle.com</a>
Chami.com HTML tips	<a href="http://www.chami.com/tips/html">www.chami.com/tips/html</a>
Chami.com Java tips	<a href="http://www.chami.com/tips/javascript">www.chami.com/tips/javascript</a>
Sun Microsystems Java Technology Pages	<a href="http://java.sun.com">java.sun.com</a>
Java Boutique (Free Java applets)	<a href="http://javaboutique.internet.com">javaboutique.internet.com</a>
Javascript.com	<a href="http://www.javascript.com">www.javascript.com</a>
The Web Developer's Virtual Library	<a href="http://www.wdvl.com">www.wdvl.com</a>
Web Developer's Journal	<a href="http://webdevelopersjournal.com">webdevelopersjournal.com</a>
Webdeveloper.com	<a href="http://www.webdeveloper.com">www.webdeveloper.com</a>
Windy's Design Studio (a great source of free backgrounds, graphics, buttons, Javascripts, etc.)	<a href="http://www.windyweb.com">www.windyweb.com</a>
Animation Factory (contains some fun 3-D graphics)	<a href="http://www.animfactory.com/">www.animfactory.com/</a>
Free Clip Art	<a href="http://www.free-graphics.com">www.free-graphics.com</a>
Free Clip Art.com	<a href="http://www.free-clip-art.com/">www.free-clip-art.com/</a>

or just go to Google. The Web is filled with information on Web design, clip art, etc.