

In-Class Exercise 1: Basics of Writing HTML

The purpose of this exercise is to increase your comfort with writing valid HTML syntax in a text editor, while also introducing you to a few of the tools used in web design/development.

Set up your work space

Web work often involves many different files and your efficiency will suffer if you can't find what you need quickly. Create a folder on your desktop and call it `tcs007`.

Open a basic text editor

Open up Notepad++. If Notepad++ is not installed on the computers, open TextEdit. **Do not** try to write HTML using Word.

Insert Four Paragraphs of Text into the file

If you want to, you can write these paragraphs from scratch. However, when using filler text, many web designers prefer to use Lorem Ipsum text. Lorem Ipsum is the name of a Latin treatise by the ancient orator Cicero. Using Latin removes the semantic element of the text, and allows the viewer to concentrate on how the text *looks*, instead of what it *says*. There are several tools for generating Lorem Ipsum text. I like to use this one:

<http://www.lipsum.com/>

Save the file as index.html

A common convention in web development is to name the main page `index`. If you save the file with a `.txt` extension, the browser will still be able to open the file, but it won't know that it is HTML. It will display everything, including the HTML element tags. Using the extension `.html` tells the browser that this is HTML code. Try changing the extension back and forth and opening the file in Firefox to see how it changes.

Add HTML tags to the text

After you make these change and save them, you'll need to reload the page in your browser to see them.

- a. Insert paragraph tags (`<p></p>` tags) around the text so it appears as distinct paragraphs.
- b. Add a main header to the page (`<h1>A Main Header </h1>`)
- c. Between the main header and the first paragraph, add a subtitle (`<h2>A Subheader</h2>`).
- d. Add another subtitle between the second and third paragraphs.
- e. Choose a series of words in the first paragraph to emphasize using the `` tags.

1. Reload and make sure everything looks correct. At this point, your page should something like:
this:

Our main page heading

Our first sub-heading

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Our second sub-heading

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Experiment with attributes

Being able to find and read documentation is a very important part of web design/development.

Go to Mozilla's global attributes page and look at the different attributes that can be applied to all HTML elements: https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTML/Global_attributes

- a. Read the description of the `dir` attribute. Add this attribute to your second paragraph element, and set the direction to display from right to left. Reload and see the effect.
- b. Read the description of the `title` attribute. Add this attribute to your third paragraph and give it a title of your choosing. Reload the page and move your mouse over the third paragraph. A tooltip with your title should appear!
- c. Read the description of the `contenteditable` attribute. Add this to your fourth paragraph and set it to "true". Click on the fourth paragraph and add or delete some words. Reload the page and see what happened to your changes.
- d. Because the fourth paragraph is in Latin, Firefox's spellchecker is marking every word as misspelled. Find an attribute that disables the spellchecker, and add it as an additional attribute to the fourth paragraph.

Check that you HTML is valid

Browsers can often display an HTML page, even if there are errors in it. Therefore, it's important to do more than a visual check of your web page. Try copying and pasting all of your HTML into the input box located here, and then clicking the Check button: http://validator.w3.org/#validate_by_input.

It should fail. There are a few elements every HTML page needs in order to be considered valid. `<head>`, `<title>`, and `<body>` elements need to be added to your page. Additionally, you'll need to add a `DOCTYPE`, which is a single element that comes before even your `<HTML>` tag. It tells the browser what sort of HTML the page contains. Add the `DOCTYPE` by insert the follow tag at the very beginning of the document:

```
<!doctype html>
```

Note that there is no closing tag needed for the `doctype`. Paste your new code into the validator and it should pass all validation checks. If there are additional errors, read what they say and fix the errors until all validation checks are passed.

Save and submit your work

Save your html document as [firstname]_[lastName].html and submit via the class folder.