

# HTML Beginners Guide

Before you start we highly recommend getting a HTML editor like [Dreamweaver](#). If you can not afford Dreamweaver then you can find a free one (probably not as good, but FREE) or you can just use the Notepad that comes preinstalled when you buy Microsoft Windows.

This guide will help you get the basic code and teach you how to use it. You have already made the first step by searching for this information on the internet. The internet is great for getting the information you need...trust us. Gain the knowledge you need here and move on to find more if you need to. Hopefully this article will evolve to be our longest and most informative article yet. Lets get started!

## HTML CODES

These codes are always inclosed using the < and > brackets. Without these your page will not work, for example.....<html> </html> are the starting and ending statments for any page. The following is the structure for any page you write:

```
<html>
<head>
<title>Your Page Title</title>
</head>
<body>
This is what is displayed on the page
</body>
</html>
```

That is the basic structure for any page you want to create. Now we will show you what to put in between those opening and closing tags. Don't worry, if you just need the code we will list it on the bottom of every page of this article.

## TITLE

The title code <title></title> is where you would put the words you want to display at the top of the page. For example ours says HTML Beginners Guide. Look on the top left of the screen.

## BODY

The body tags is what everyone see when they enter your site. If you want it seen then insert it in between the <body></body> tags.

## BASIC TEXT AND TEXT FORMATS

When writing in HTML it is pretty basic writing, mostly the same way you would write in Word or Wordpad with a few minor exceptions. If you want to acheive a certain look in your text then you need to add certain codes before and after the word you want to make look different. For example **BOLD** is <b>BOLD</b>. The letter b in the brackets is pretty easy to remember just like the rest of the text formats.

## NEW PARAGRAPH

To start a new paragraph and create a blank line between your new paragraph and the one above it use <p>. The closing tag is </p>, but is not mandatory. You can change text size and style using these tags by inserting the change you want within the <p> tag. For example: <p style="font-size:10px "> changes the entire paragraph font to 10px. You can

insert any of the below codes to achieve the look you want for the entire paragraph.

### LINE BREAK

The line break `<br>` tag will put your text on the next line. Two `<br>` tags is equivalent to one `<p>` tag. There's no closing tag needed for this one. So in order to make you paragraph look like this you would make the code look like `<br>` this. This is very simple and helps make your page look more organized.

### STYLES

The following are different codes to show different styles. We have included an example with each style.

#### BOLD

```
<b>BOLD TEXT</b>
```

**BOLD TEXT**

#### UNDERLINE

```
<u>UNDERLINE TEXT</u>
```

UNDERLINE TEXT

#### ITALICS

```
<i>ITALIC TEXT </i>
```

*ITALIC TEXT*

#### CHANGE TEXT COLOR

```
<font color="red">RED COLOR</font>
```

RED COLOR

#### CHANGE FONT FACE

```
<font face="Arial">ARIAL FONT</font>
```

ARIAL FONT

#### CHANGE FONT SIZE

```
<font size="3px">3PX SIZE</font>
```

3PX SIZE

#### BLINKING TEXT

```
<blink> EXAMPLE BLINKING</blink> (only works in Netscape)
```

EXAMPLE BLINKING

#### SCROLLING TEXT

```
<marquee>EXAMPLE MARQUEE</marquee>
```

#### CENTER ALIGN TEXT

```
<p align="center">CENTER TEXT</p>
```

CENTER TEXT

#### LEFT ALIGN TEXT

```
<p align="left">LEFT TEXT</p>
```

LEFT TEXT

**RIGHT ALIGN TEXT**  
<p align="right">RIGHT TEXT</p>  
RIGHT TEXT

## IMAGES

To display an image you need to type . That will display the image example.jpg if the image is located on the local machine or your PC. If the image is located on the internet you will have to put the entire location of the image, for example: . This method uses bandwidth of the website you are grabbing the image from so we highly recommend copying the image to your computer and then uploading to your site.

## IMAGE LINKS

You can use images to create links that catch people's attention quicker than just a text link by inserting the following code: <a href="http://www.example.com"></a>. The <a href=""></a> code is how to create links from page to page....but we will discuss that more later on in the article. With the image link code we just provided you will have a border to signify a link has been created. To remove this border you need to insert a border="0px" into the img src brackets. For example: <a href="http://www.example.com"></a>. This code will make the image link look nicer and more uniform to the page.

## IMAGE WIDTH AND HEIGHT

You can also specify the image width and height by inserting width="#px" and height="#px" in the same fashion. With every image you need to specify a image ALT tag. The ALT tag is a little description that people can see when they mouse over the image. For example: . That would display an image that said Minor description when the mouse was moved over it.

## LINKS

You can create links to and from your site by using the <a href=""></a> code. Say if you wanted to link to the Zero 3 Computers website you would put <a href="http://www.zero3computers.com">Custom Computers</a> anywhere on the page. If you want to keep the link in the open browser window leave it as it is or if you want the user to stay on your page but open the new link in another window you need make the link look like this:

<a href="http://www.zero3computers.com" target="\_blank">Custom Computers</a>. The target="\_blank" will allow the user to stay on your page and look at the new link in a new window or tab.

## CHANGE LINK COLOR

The default color for a text link is blue but you can change that with this simple code: <body link="red" vlink="magenta" alink="yellow">. The body link is the color of all links on the page that have not been interacted with, the vlink is the color of all the links that have been clicked, and the alink is for all the active links (they are active when the mouse moves over them). So using the above code you will have a red link that changes to yellow when mouse over and then turns magenta when clicked.

## EMAIL LINKS

Create email links using the standard <a href=""></a> but insert a mailto: before the web address. For example: <a href="mailto:example@example.com">Click here to mail

me</a>. This will bring up a default email program such as Outlook Express or Outlook. If the user does not have this properly configured then they may have issues emailing you, so we highly recommend using a form to gather and process information through php. We will describe how to do this later in the forms section.

## ANCHOR LINKS

You can create anchor links that a user can use to be brought to a specific part of a page. Say you have a link saying "Click here for more information" and you want to direct the user to the middle of a page to that exact information. Doing this is fairly simple. You need to insert the # with the anchor link. For example on the middle of the information.htm page you would have this: <a name="link1">Example Link</a>. This is your anchor link to the exact part of the page you wish the user to go. On the page you want the user to come from you would place the following code: <a href="information.htm#link1">Click Here For More Information</a>. This would lead them to the "link1" anchor link.

## CREATING A TABLE

A table is a box that you can separate into rows and columns. To create a table you need to use the <table></table> tags. You can use a table to keep things aligned on your site or to display things like they are in Excel.

## CREATING TABLE ROWS AND COLUMNS

A table row is the horizontal boxes. They are the <TR></TR> tags. You can add columns within these rows with the <TD></TD> tags. You can have as many rows and columns as you wish per table. You can also use color for the background, just use the bgcolor="" tag within the <TD></TD> tags. You can also use the align tag like we said on the first part (align="center"), but use it within the <TD></TD> tags as well.

```
<TABLE width="100%" border="1" cellpadding="0" cellspacing="0"
<TR>
<TD width="200" height="20" valign="top">ROW 1 COLUMN 1</TD>
<TD width="200" valign="top">ROW 1 COLUMN 2</TD>
<TD width="200" valign="top" bgcolor="#00CC00" align="right" >ROW 1 COLUMN
3</TD>
</TR>
<TR>
<TD width="200" valign="top">ROW 2 COLUMN 1</TD>
<TD width="200" valign="top" bgcolor="#FF0000" align="center" >ROW 2 COLUMN
2</TD>
</TR>
</TABLE>
```

This code will result in the following: **(the table has a border so you can see it, but is not required)**

ROW 1 COLUMN 1	ROW 1 COLUMN 2	ROW 1 COLUMN 3
ROW 2 COLUMN 1	ROW 2 COLUMN 2	

As you can see that example utilizes the use of a border, rows, columns, align, and background color. You also need to include a rowspan="" if you want the row to go across more than one column. For example a rowspan="3" is a row that goes across 3 columns.

The same goes for colspan="".

You can add images instead of letters if you want. Also you should notice that without the border the lower right column will not show up. This is a great way to have images on your site that will look great in Firefox and Internet Explorer.

## COLOR CODES

Now we will show you how the color codes so that your page will be colorful, and hopefully still readable. First we need to explain what all the codes mean. Colors are expressed in RGB, Red, Green, and Blue. Like in real life if you mix these colors you get other colors. Colors on the internet are expressed in percentages, integer values (0 - 255) or hexadecimal values (00 - FF). Hexadecimal is used the most when dealing with the internet.

Remember 0 means no color and F means full color.

In hexadecimal colors there is 6 digits. The first 2 are RED, the second 2 are GREEN, and the last 2 are BLUE. For example *FF0000 is RED, 00FF00 is GREEN, and 0000FF is BLUE.* Intermixing these colors can give you a very wide variety of outcomes, for example:

*FFFF00 = YELLOW*  
*FF00FF = PINK*  
*00FFFF = CYAN*  
*00CCFF = BLUE (LIGHT SHADE)*  
*990000 = RED (DARK SHADE)*  
*006600 = GREEN (DARK SHADE)*  
*999999 = GREY*  
*CCCCCC = GREY (LIGHT SHADE)*  
*FFFFFF = WHITE*  
*000000 = BLACK*

## PAGE SYMBOLS

When creating a website you may need to add symbols to your page. Some of the most common symbols are " , & , © , , and ®. These symbols are not create in the same fashion as typing where you would hold down the shift key and type the symbol, but is actually a code. The following is a table of the most common symbols and their symbols.

34 &quot; " quotation mark  
38 &amp; & ampersand  
60 &lt; < less-than sign  
62 &gt; > greater-than sign  
160 &nbsp; no-break space  
169 &copy; © copyright sign  
174 &reg; ® registered trademark sign  
8226 &bull; • bullet symbol, not operator

Those symbols will be used the most on your page. [Dreamweaver](#) does the coding for you so that you can type normally but if you are using the notepad you will have to insert these codes to have your symbols appear correctly. Having to type these codes can be very time consuming and will make your coding alot harder then it already is. I highly recommend getting [Dreamweaver](#) to ensure the website is correct and efficiently created.

## JAVASCRIPT

Javascript is a coding language that gives more features and looks for your site then just

HTML can give you. They work well together, but we recommend not overdoing the Javascript. You would be surprised how many people apply to much javascript to their page and do not know how bad it looks. Javascript is very handy and easy to find on the internet so we will not go into detail of how to do it, but we will recommend some webpages you may find useful if you do not know how to code Javascript. But first, a simple example of Javascript coding:

Current Time & Date: Tue Dec 30 13:20:16 MST 2008

This Javascript is very simple but as you can see, very powerful. The code looks like this:

```
<SCRIPT TYPE="text/javascript">
<!--
document.write("right now: " + new Date());
//-->
</SCRIPT>
```

This code can be edited more to make the text appear in real time, like a clock on your site and so on. For more information check out these sites, they have tutorials, copy and paste examples, and demos.

[www.javascript.internet.com/](http://www.javascript.internet.com/) - FREE code and help

[www.dynamicdrive.com/](http://www.dynamicdrive.com/) - FREE code and help (check out their forums for user help)

[www.w3schools.com/js/](http://www.w3schools.com/js/) - FREE code and help (this is like a school, learn everything for Javascript here)

Usually when working with Javascript you want to make sure your viewers can see it, some people have javascript disabled on their browser for the simple fact many virus exploits are ran from Javascript. You will have to add a `<NOSCRIPT></NOSCRIPT>` code to make sure that non-Javascript users see a message saying your page uses javascript and that the blank parts of your page are intentional and can be seen with Javascript. The following is an example code of a `<NOSCRIPT></NOSCRIPT>` tag.

```
<NOSCRIPT>
Whoops, we detected that your browser does not have JavaScript, or it is disabled. Our
product catalog requires that you have JavaScript enabled to order products. Netscape,
Mozilla, and Microsoft offer free browsers which support JavaScript. If you are using a
JavaScript compliant browser and still have problems, make sure you have JavaScript
enabled in your browser's preferences.
</NOSCRIPT>
```

## META TAGS

Meta tags are used by search engines and display information about the page. For example you can have a meta tag for copyright information, author name, locations, and creation date. Remember the meta tags are always within the head tag, usually at the top of your page. They are invisible to users but seen by search engine spiders and bots. Here are some examples:

```
<META NAME="author" content="your name here">
<META NAME="keywords" content="computers, help, websites">
<META NAME="description" content="Information here is displayed when a search engine
finds your page.">
```

```
<META NAME="abstract" content="General website information goes here">
<META NAME="revisit-after" content="15 days">
<META NAME="rating" content="General">
<META NAME="distribution" content="Global">
<META NAME="zipcode" content="35931, 39530, 39565, 39532">
<META NAME="city" content="Biloxi, Gulfport, Vancleave, Ocean Springs">
<META NAME="state" content="Mississippi">
<META NAME="country" content="usa, united states of america">
<meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html; charset=iso-8859-1">
```

Most tags are required like the `<meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html; charset=iso-8859-1">`. Another meta tag is one used to auto refresh your page. You can make this tag refresh the page after a number of seconds has passed. This is a very handy tag if you have information that constantly needs to be updated for the viewer. Here is an example:

```
<META HTTP-EQUIV="REFRESH" CONTENT="5; URL=example.htm">
```

That example would refresh the example.htm page every 5 seconds. This should only be used if the user can not enter any information on the page because they would have to start over constantly and will become angry.