

## Lecture 4: HTML Entities

### Why HTML Entities

1. Some characters are reserved in HTML, If you use the less than (<) or greater than (>) signs in your text, the browser might mix them with tags. Character entities are used to display reserved characters in HTML.
2. Characters that are not present on your keyboard can also be replaced by entities.

### Entity Format: A character entity looks like this:

**&entity\_name;**

OR

**&#entity\_number;**

**Example1.**   <   >   &nbsp;

**Example2.** To display a less than sign (<) we must write: &lt; or &#60;

- **Advantage of using an entity name: An entity name is easy to remember.**
- **Disadvantage of using an entity name: Browsers may not support all entity names, but the support for numbers is good.**

### Non-breaking Space

A common character entity used in HTML is the non-breaking space: &nbsp;

non-breaking space used to prevent that browsers truncate spaces in HTML pages.

If you write 10 spaces in your text, the browser will remove 9 of them. To add real spaces to your text, you can use the &nbsp; character entity.

**Some Other Useful HTML Character Entities**

Result	Description	Entity Name	Entity Number
	non-breaking space	&nbsp;	&#160;
<	less than	&lt;	&#60;
>	greater than	&gt;	&#62;
&	ampersand	&amp;	&#38;
"	double quotation mark	&quot;	&#34;
'	single quotation mark (apostrophe)	&apos;	&#39;
¢	cent	&cent;	&#162;
£	pound	&pound;	&#163;
¥	yen	&yen;	&#165;
€	euro	&euro;	&#8364;
©	copyright	&copy;	&#169;
®	registered trademark	&reg;	&#174;

**Note: Entity names are case sensitive.**