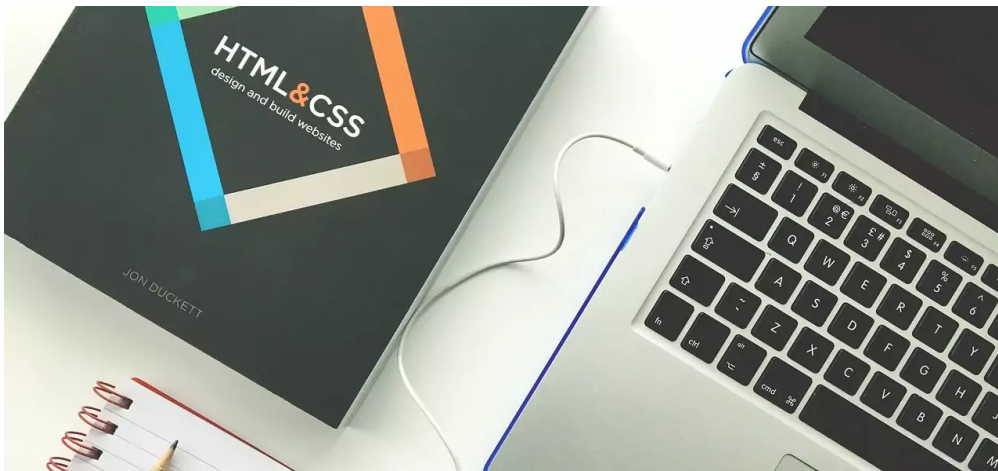# HTML For Beginners The Easy Way: Start Learning HTML & CSS Today

> **Disclosure:** Your support helps keep the site running! We earn a referral fee for some of the services we recommend on this page. Learn more

Welcome! You've Found the Easiest Way to Learn HTML and CSS.

Whether you are a novice, hoping to delve into the world of web design or an experienced webmaster keen to improve your skills, we've got **online tutorials tailored to your web design needs**.

Our absolute beginner tutorial will turn you from wannabe to webmaster in just a few hours. Unlike many other HTML tutorials, it's a **step-by-step guide** – not a boring long-winded reference.

Our **step-by-step guide** teaches you the basics of HTML and how to build your first website. That means how to layout an HTML page, how to add text and images, how to add headings and text formatting, and how to use tables.

In a rush? Go straight to our tutorial and start learning HTML now!

We'll get you **building your new website in minutes**, not hours.

HTML for Absolute Beginners

While many guides on the internet attempt to teach HTML using a lot of mind-boggling theory, this tutorial will instead focus on giving you the **practical skills to build your first site**.

The aim is to show you 'how' to create your first web page without spending the entire tutorial focusing too much on the "why."

By the end of this tutorial, you will have the **know-how to create a basic website** and we hope that this will inspire you to delve further into the world of HTML using our follow-on guides.

What is HTML?

Okay, so this is the only bit of mandatory theory. In order to begin to write HTML, it helps if you know what you are writing.

HTML is the **language in which most websites are written**. HTML is used to create pages and make them functional.

The code used to make them visually appealing is known as CSS and we shall focus on this in a later tutorial. For now, we will focus on **teaching you how to build rather than design**.

The History of HTML

HTML was first created by Tim Berners-Lee, Robert Cailliau, and others starting in **1989**. It stands for Hyper Text Markup Language.

Hypertext means that the document contains **links that allow the reader to jump to other places** in the document or to another document altogether. The latest version is known as HTML5.

A **Markup Language** is a way that computers speak to each other to control how text is processed and presented. To do this HTML uses two things: tags and **attributes**.

What are Tags and Attributes?

Tags and attributes are the basis of HTML.

They work together but perform different functions – it is worth investing 2 minutes in **differentiating the two**.

What Are HTML Tags?

Tags are used to **mark up the start of an HTML element** and they are usually enclosed in angle brackets. An example of a tag is: `<h1>` .

Most tags must be opened `<h1>` and closed `</h1>` in order to function.

What are HTML Attributes?

Attributes contain **additional pieces of information**. Attributes take the form of an opening tag and additional info is **placed inside**.

An example of an attribute is:

```
<img src="mydog.jpg" alt="A photo of my dog.">
```

In this instance, the image source (src) and the alt text (alt) are attributes of the `<img>` tag.

Golden Rules To Remember

1. The vast majority of tags must be **opened** (`<tag>`) and **closed** (`</tag>`) with the element information such as a title or text resting between the tags.
2. When using multiple tags, the tags must be **closed in the order in which they were opened**. For example:

```
<strong><em>This is really important!</em></strong>
```

HTML Editors

Now that we've gotten the basic theory out of the way. It's time to **learn how to build our first website**.

First off, we must ensure that we have the right tools. Most important, we need an HTML editor.

There are many choices on the market. Here are a handful of the most popular:

Sublime Text 3

However, for this tutorial, we will use the Sublime Text 3 as it is free and also offers cross-platform support for Windows, Mac, and Linux users.
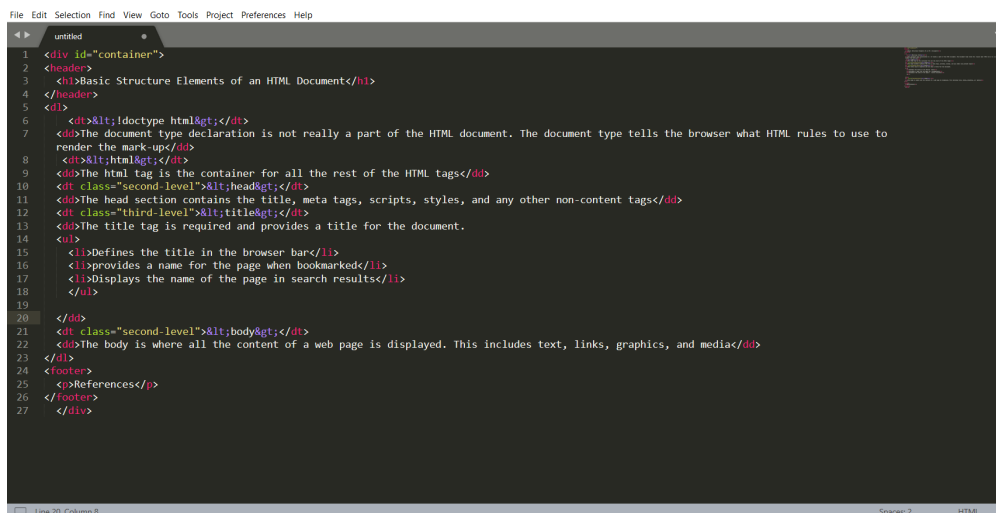
Sublime Text 3 has a mini-preview window on the right.

Pros

- Easily customizable
- Beginner-friendly
- Pleasant color schemes to choose from.

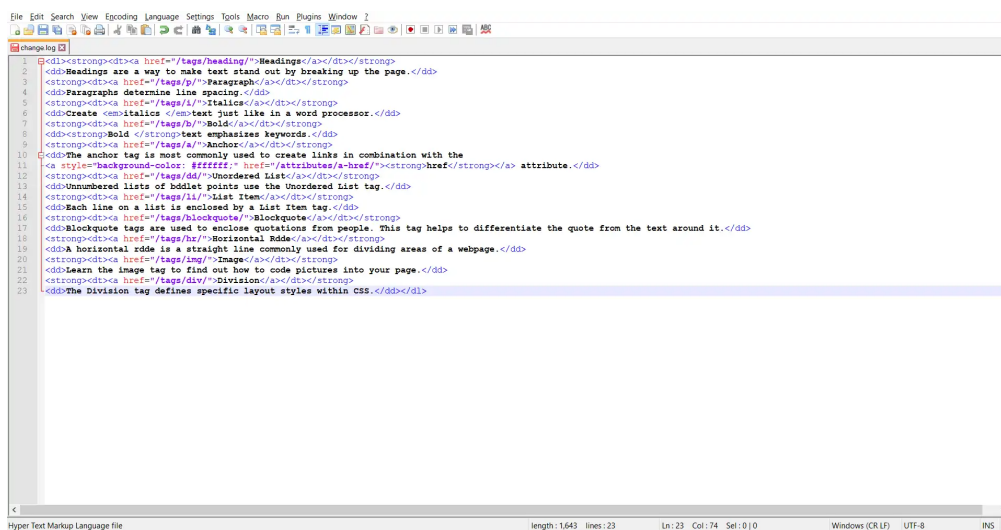## Cons

- Can't print documents or code
- No toolbar or dashboard available.

Notepad ++

Another common choice for HTML and other language coders is Notepad ++. It is a tiny program to download and perform the functions you need for writing clean code.

This is Notepad ++. Far from glamorous but does the job.

Pros

- Distraction-free interface
- Auto-completion feature
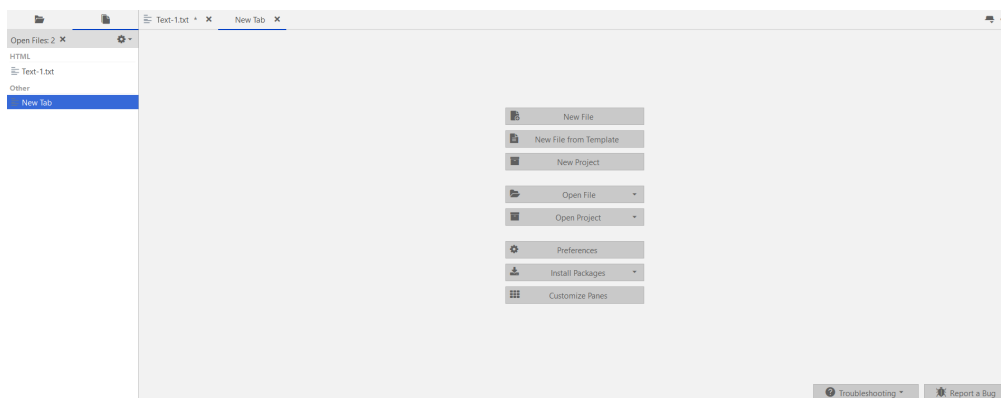- Plugin options for extended functionalities.

Cons

- Can be difficult to get used to for beginners
- No support for Mac.

Komodo Edit

Komodo Edit is one of two editors released by the same label. They offer a simple, open-source editor with a **variety of extensions and language support**.

It is free to download.

Komodo isn't one for a flash interface either but is simple to use.

Pros

- Easy-to-grasp coding interface
- Available for Mac, Windows, and Linux
- Impressive language support.

Cons

- No autocompletion by default
- Visual settings are difficult to find and change.

What To Avoid

Do not use Microsoft Word or any other word processor when writing HTML code, only an HTML editor or at the very least, your machine's built-in notepad, is suitable for the task.

Secondly, ensure that you've installed a number of **different browsers** such as Chrome and Firefox in order to preview your upcoming creation.

Your code's front-end view varies from browser to browser – you will learn more about this with advanced CSS.

Creating Your First HTML Webpage

First off, you need to open your HTML editor, where you will find a **clean white page** on which to write your code.

From there you need to layout your page with the following tags.

Basic Construction of an HTML Page

These tags should be placed underneath each other **at the top of every HTML page** that you create.

`<!DOCTYPE html>` — This tag **specifies the language** you will write on the page. In this case, the language is HTML 5.

`<html>` — This tag signals that from here on we are going to write in HTML code.

`<head>` — This is where all the **metadata for the page** goes — stuff mostly meant for search engines and other computer programs.

`<body>` — This is where the **content of the page** goes.

```
<html>
    <head>
        <title>This Is Your Title </title>
    </head>

    <body>



                        HTML.COM

            <h1> This Is Your Header </h1>
            <p> This is your paragraph. </p>




    </body>

</html>
```

This is how your average HTML page is structured visually.

Further Tags

Inside the `<head>` tag, there is one tag that is always included: `<title>` , but there are others that are just as important:

`<title>`
    This is where we **insert the page name** as it will appear at the top of the browser window or tab.

`<meta>`
    This is where information *about* the document is stored: character encoding, name (page context), description.

Let's try out a basic `<head>` section:

```
<head>
<title>My First Webpage</title>
<meta charset="UTF-8">
<meta name="description" content="This field contains information about yo
ur page. It is usually around two sentences long.">.
<meta name="author" content="Conor Sheils">
</header>
```

Adding Content

Next, we will make `<body>` tag.

The HTML `<body>` is where we add the content which is designed for viewing by human eyes.

This includes **text, images, tables, forms** and everything else that we see on the internet each day.

How to Add HTML Headings To Your Web Page

In HTML, headings are written in the following elements:

- `<h1>`
  - `<h2>`
    - `<h3>`
      - `<h4>`
        - `<h5>`
          - `<h6>`

As you might have guessed `<h1>` and `<h2>` should be used for the most important titles, while the remaining tags should be used for sub-headings and less important text.

Search engine bots use this order when deciphering which information is most important on a page.

Creating Your Heading

Let's try it out. On a new line in the HTML editor, type:

```
<h1>Welcome to My Page</h1>
```

And hit save. We will save this file as "index.html" in a new folder called "my webpage."

> *The Moment of Truth: Click the newly saved file and your first ever web page should open in your default browser. It may not be pretty it's yours… all yours. *Evil laugh**

Well let's not get carried away; we've still got loads of great features that we can add to your page.

How To Add Text In HTML

Adding text to our HTML page is simple using an element opened with the tag `<p>` which **creates a new paragraph**. We place all of our regular text inside the element `<p>` .

When we write text in HTML, we also have a number of other elements we can use to **control the text or make it appear in a certain way**.

Other Key Elements

They are as follows:

Element	Meaning	Purpose
\<b\>	Bold	Highlight important information
\<strong\>	Strong	Similarly to bold, to highlight key text
\<i\>	Italic	To denote text
\<em\>	Emphasised Text	Usually used as image captions
\<mark\>	Marked Text	Highlight the background of the text
\<small\>	Small Text	To shrink the text
\<strike\>	Striked Out Text	To place a horizontal line across the text
\<u\>	Underlined Text	Used for links or text highlights

Element	Meaning	Purpose
<ins>	Inserted Text	Displayed with an underline to show an inserted text
<sub>	Subscript Text	Typographical stylistic choice
<sup>	Superscript Text	Another typographical presentation style

These tags **must** be opened and closed around the text in question.

Let's try it out. On a new line in the HTML editor, type the following HTML code:

```
<p>Welcome to <em>my</em> brand new website. This site will be my
<strong>new<strong> home on the web.</p>
```

Don't forget to **hit save and then refresh the page** in your browser to see the results.

How To Add Links In HTML

As you may have noticed, the internet is made up of lots of links.

Almost everything you click on while surfing the web is a link **takes you to another page** within the website you are visiting or to an external site.

Links are included in an attribute opened by the **<a>** tag. This element is the first that we've met which uses an attribute and so it **looks different to previously mentioned tags**.

The Anchor Tag

The <a> (or anchor) opening tag is written in the format:

```
<a href="https://blogging.com/how-to-start-a-blog/">Your Link Text Here
</a>
```

The **first part** of the attribute **points to the page that will open** once the link is clicked.

Meanwhile, the **second part** of the attribute contains the **text which will be displayed** to a visitor in order to entice them to click on that link.

If you are building your own website then you will most likely host all of your pages on professional web hosting. In this case, internal links on your website will Link Title Here.

Let's Create An Anchor Tag

Let's try it out. Make a duplicate of the code from your current index.html page. Copy / paste it into a new window in your HTML editor.

Save this new page as "page2.html" and ensure that it is saved in the same folder as your index.html page.

On page2.html add the following code:

```
<a href="http://www.google.com">Google</a>
```

This will create a link to Google on page 2. Hit save and return to your index.html page.

On a new line on index.html add the following code:

```
<a href="*folder(s)*/page2.html">Page2</a>
```

Ensure the folder path to the file (page2.html) is correct. **Hit save and preview** index.html in your browser.

If **everything is correct** then **you will see a link which will take you to your second page**. On the second page, there will be a link that will take you to google.com.

How To Add Images In HTML To Your Website

In today's modern digital world, images are everything. The **<img>** tag has everything you need to display images on your site. Much like the <a> anchor element, <img> also contains an attribute.

The attribute *features information* for your computer regarding the **source**, **height**, **width** and **alt text** of the image.

Styling and Formats
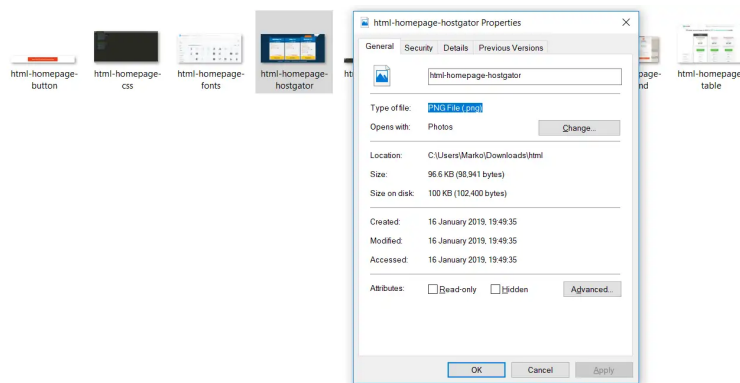
You can check the file type of an image by right-clicking the item and selecting 'Properties'.

You can also define borders and other styles around the image using the class attribute. However, we shall cover this in a later tutorial.

The file types generally used for **image files online are**: .jpg, .png, and (less and less) .gif.

Alt text is important to **ensure that your site is ranked correctly** on search sites and also for visually impaired visitors to your site.

The <img> tag normally is written as follows:

```
<img src="yourimage.jpg" alt="Describe the image" height="X" width="X">
```

Let's try it out.

Create Your Own Image With An Alt Text

Save an image (.jpg, .png, .gif format) of your choice in the same folder where you've saved index.html and page2.html. Call this image "testpic.jpg."

On a new line in your HTML editor **enter the following code**:

Don't be afraid to play around with the test code – it's a great way to

```
<img src="testpic.jpg" alt="This is a test
image" height="42" width="42">
```

*have fun while
learning.*

Hit **save and preview** the index.html page in your browser.

How To Make an HTML List

In web design, there are **3 different types of lists** which you may wish to add to your site.

Ordered List

The first is an <ol>: This is an ordered list of contents. For example:

1. An item
2. Another item
3. Another goes here.

Inside the **
** tag we list each item on the list inside <li> tags.

For example:

```
<ol>
<li>An item </li>
<li>Another item </li>
<li>Another goes here </li>
</ol>
```

Unordered List

The second type of list that you may wish to include is an **<ul>** unordered list. This is better known as a **bullet point list** and contains no numbers.

An example of this is:

```
<ul>
<li>This is </li>
<li>An Unordered </li>
<li>List </li>
</ul>
```

Definition List

Finally, you may wish to include a definition list **<dl>** on your page. An example of a **<dl>** list is as follows:

HTML
  Hypertext markup language is a programming language used to create web pages and is
  rendered by a web browser.

The code used for the above is as follows:

```
<dl>
<dt>Item</dt>
<dd>The definition goes here</dd>
</dl>
```

Let's try it out. Open index.html and on a new line, enter the following HTML:

```
<p>This website will have the following benefits for my business:</p>
<ul>
<li>Increased traffic </li>
<li>Global Reach</li>
<li>Promotional Opportunities</li>
</ul>
```

Now **hit save and check out the results** in your browser. If everything worked out then it will display a bullet-pointed table displaying the information above.

How To Add Tables In HTML
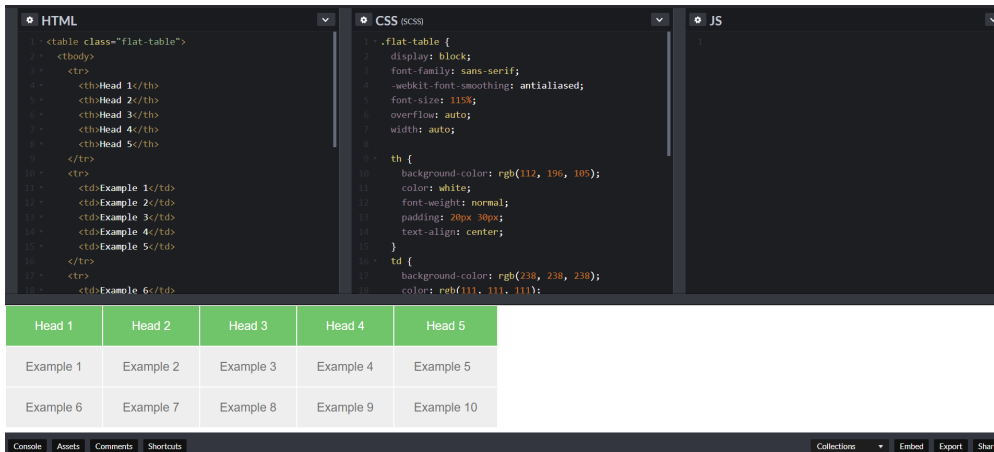
Tables can be styled in various ways – Codepen.io offers live previews to keep track of changes.

Another way to keep your website looking **neat and orderly** is through the use of a table.

Do not use a table to layout your website. Search engines hate it and it is generally a bad idea. Just… don't. See our CSS tutorial, instead.

This is definitely the most complicated part of this tutorial, however, learning it will certainly pay off in the long-run.

With this in mind, tables can still be a **useful way to present content** on your page.

What Does a Table Consist Of?

When drawing a table we must open an element with the **<table>** opening tag. Inside this tag, we structure the table using the table rows, <tr>, and cells, <td>.

An example of an HTML table is as follows:

```
<table>
<tr>
<td>Row 1 - Column 1</td>
<td>Row 1 - Colunm 2 </td>
<td>Row 1 - Column 3 </td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Row 2 - Column 1</td>
<td>Row 2 - Column 2</td>
<td>Row 2 - Column 3</td>
</tr>
</table>
```

This will produce a 2-row table with 3 cells in each row.

Tables can get quite complicated, so be sure to check out our special HTML tables tutorial.

Table Tags

However, watch out for these tags so that you can **recognize them and use them** as your skills develop.

Here are the tables tags presented in a table – pun totally intended.

Table Tag	Meaning	Location
<thead>	Table Head	Top of the table
<tbody>	Table Body	Content of the table
<tfoot>	Table Foot	Bottom of the table
<colgroup>	Column Group	Within the table
<th>	Table Header	Data cell for the table header

Tables, borders, spacing are usually styled using CSS but we will cover this in a later tutorial.

Let's Make a Table

Go to a new line on the index.html page within your text editor. Enter the following HTML code:

```
<table>
<tr>
<td>Row 1 - Column 1</td>
<td>Row 1 - Column 2 </td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Row 2 - Column 1</td>
<td>Row 2 - Column 2</td>
</tr>
</table>
```

Hit save and preview it in your browser.

Congratulations: You did it!

How To Close an HTML Document

You've **reached the end of our absolute beginners HTML tutorial**.

The final step we need to complete is to close the <body> and <html> tags at the end of each page using the following HTML code:

```
</body>
</html>
```

In this guide, you've learned how to create basic HTML web pages.

You've also learned to add headings, text, images, links, lists and basic tables to these pages.

What's Next?

You can now use this knowledge to create your own web pages containing these features and link them together.

We suggest that you **further enhance your skills by experimenting** with the code you've learned using different variables. You may also wish to learn about how to make your pages beautiful using CSS.

The power to create your own website is now in your hands.

Troubleshooting

In case things didn't work out as intended, simply **check your HTML code** against the examples below.

Index.html troubleshooting code:

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
<title>My First Webpage</title>
<meta charset="UTF-8">
<meta name="description" content="This is my first website. It includes lots
of information about my life.">
</head>
<body>
<h1>Welcome to my webpage</h1>
<p>Welcome to <em>my</em> brand new website.</p>
<p>This site will be my <strong>new</strong> home on the web.</p>
<a href="/page2.html">Page2</a>
<img src="testpic.jpg" alt="This is a test image" height="42" width="42">
<p>This website will have the following benefits for my business:</p>
<ul>
<li>Increased traffic </li>
<li>Global Reach</li>
<li>Promotional Opportunities</li>
</ul>
<table>
<tr>
<td>Row 1 - Column 1</td>
<td>Row 1 - Column 2 </td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Row 2 - Column 1</td>
<td>Row 2 - Column 2</td>
</tr>
</table>
</body>
</html>
```

page2.html troubleshooting code:

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
<title>My First Webpage</title>
<meta charset="UTF-8">
<meta name="description" content="This is my first website. It includes lots
of information about my life.">
</head>
<body>
<h1>Welcome to my webpage</h1>
<p>Welcome to <em>my</em> brand new website.</p>
<p>This site will be my <strong>new<strong> home on the web.</p>
<a href="http://www.google.com">Google</a>
</body>
</html>
```

Our Other HTML Tutorials

Our HTML tutorials teach you how to create a personal website or site for your business, without forcing you to learn unnecessary theory.

Our most popular beginner's tutorials include:

HTML tables

These tutorials guide you through the **process of creating tables** for your exact needs. Tables were once the primary means by which pages were laid out.

With the adoption of CSS, this is no longer necessary. And for good reason, because this created pages that were almost impossible to maintain. But for the purpose of display tables, HTML offers all the tools you will need.

Links

There's a lot more to links than just moving from page to page. In this tutorial, you will learn **how to navigate pages and download files**.

You'll also learn how to make your links as user-friendly as possible. Links are the core of HTML so this is important stuff.

Forms

Forms are important for marketing as well as creating web applications and more.

This detailed tutorial will guide you from the **very basics to the most advanced uses of forms** with CSS and JavaScript.

Fonts

At one time, the font was an HTML tag and it made creating maintainable web pages a nightmare. Now **we use CSS to set fonts and their attributes** like weight, style, and size.

And by using CSS, you can set the look of your pages consistently with the ability to radically change them by changing just a few lines of code. This tutorial explains all.

Images

With the use of the img tag and CSS, you can do just about anything you want.

But with HTML5, you have the addition of the `picture` and `figure` elements. **Find out how to do images right** with this thorough tutorial.
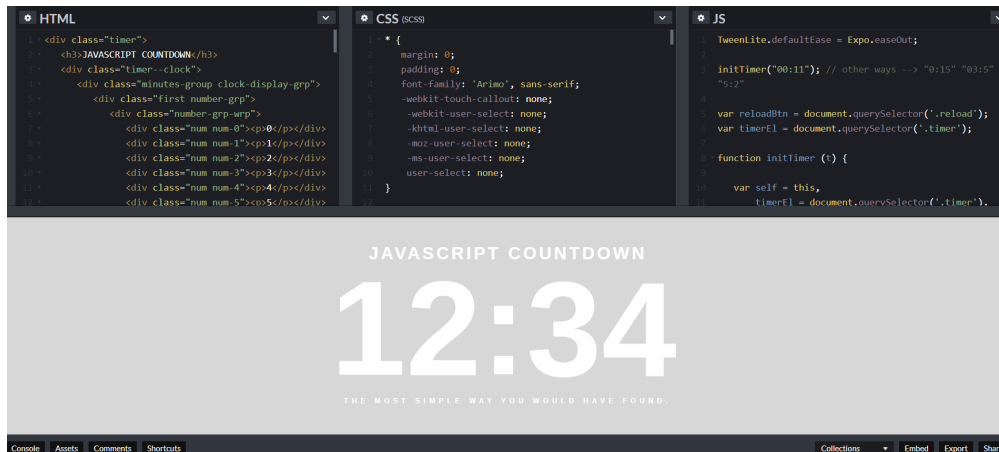
Intermediate & Advanced Tutorials

We've plenty of topics for **intermediate and advanced** HTML learners, too:

CSS tutorials

CCS, Cascading Style Sheets, allow you to design and ornament your web pages.

This tutorial takes you from the **beginning to being fluent in CSS** so that you can create complex pages that are easily maintained.

JavaScript

Javascript is often used to add dynamic elements (like this countdown clock) to web pages.

JavaScript is arguably the most important web coding language after HTML. Most websites you visit employ at least a little bit of JavaScript coding.

Along with HTML and CSS, JavaScript makes the trinity of webpage **design and construction**.

This tutorial assumes you know nothing and gets you going with this essential programming language. It even introduces you to advanced subjects like AJAX and jQuery.

HTML5

Video: This 3 minute crash course is a great way to start understanding HTML5.

HTML5 has revolutionized webpage markup with things like **semantic and multimedia elements**. Find out all about the new goodies that are waiting to be explored.

Semantic Markup

This tutorial introduces you to semantic markup that allows you to construct pages so that their structure reveals their content.

This is especially useful as search engines become more and more advanced — allowing them to **find users the right information** they are looking for.

Logical tags

You may have noticed that few people use the `i` tag for italics and instead use the `em` tag.

This is because the `i` tag is just a **formatting tag** and thus should really be accomplished with CSS. The `em` has meaning: the text is emphasized.

Logical tags like `em` and `cite` are important in the same way as semantic markup. Find more in this brief discussion.

HTML Reference Guides

Meanwhile, our detailed HTML tags reference lets you find out more about every single HTML tag from `<a>` to `<xmp>` .

Each tag reference **includes background and examples**, which show how to use the tag in question. It's perfect for when you want to troubleshoot problems while coding HTML.

Below are some of the **most common tags** — used by nearly every website you encounter:

Button Tag
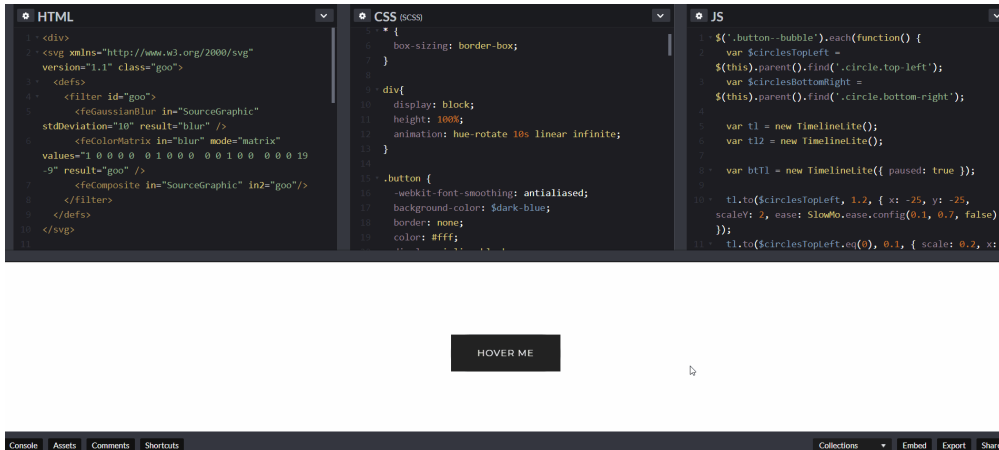
Buttons can be customized in astonishing ways using CSS and JS. This is Codepen.io – an online editing and code sharing platform.

A tag that puts a `button` onto a webpage. It **must be combined with JavaScript** in order to do anything. This page provides all the details you need.

Anchor Tag

Links are far more powerful than new HTML coders realize. Find out all you need to know to make the greatest use of the `a` tag.

Link Tag

The `link` tag can be confusing because it is easy to mix up with "links" (defined with the `a` tag).

But `link` is a very powerful tag that allows you to **link an HTML document** to an outside resource like a CSS file. Find out all you need to know here.

Image Manipulation
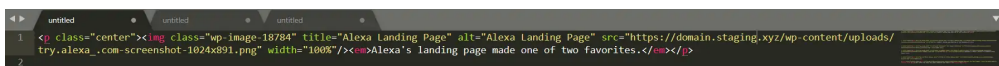
This is an image code with various attributes.

Although HTML makes displaying images easy with the `img` tag, by using some JavaScript, you can **change images on the fly**.

This tutorial shows you how.

Character Codes

Another great aspect of HTML is its ability to use non-keyboard keys like ® (`&reg;`) and ©
(`&copy;`).

This reference provides you with the information you need to **make full use of these symbols**.

Headings

Headings are a way to make text stand out by breaking up the page.

Paragraph

Paragraphs determine line spacing.

Italics

Create *italics* text just like in a word processor.

Bold

Bold text emphasizes keywords.

Anchor

The anchor tag is most commonly used to create links in combination with the **href** attribute.

Unordered List

Unnumbered lists of bullet points use the Unordered List tag.

List Item

Each line on a list is enclosed by a List Item tag.

Blockquote

Blockquote tags are used to enclose quotations from people. This tag helps to differentiate the
quote from the text around it.

Horizontal Rule

A horizontal rule is a straight line commonly used for dividing areas of a webpage.

Image

Learn the image tag to find out how to code pictures into your page.

Division

The Division tag defines specific layout styles within CSS.

HTML Attributes Reference Guide

The HTML attributes section is designed to allow you to get up close and personal with the HTML
attributes that you know and love while introducing you to some **advanced attributes** along the way.

Our **most popular attributes include**:

`<img src="">` — Learn how to **pick the image** to display.

`<img alt="">` — This sets the **name of the image** for those who can't see the image for one reason or another.

`<a target="">` – Links don't have to fill the current page. There are other, often better, options.

`<a href="">` — The basic link attribute sets **where it will transport the user to**.

`<body background-*="">` — Learn to set a webpage's **background color, image, or more**.

`<table bordercolor="">` — Find out how to set the border color of your tables.

HTML Cheat Sheet

If you are pretty confident in your HTML abilities but sometimes feel like double-checking your work then look no further than our HTML cheat sheet.

This handy guide will show you everything you need to know about HTML in a **super-compact, and easy-to-understand format**. It provides information on particular tags and specific attributes in an alphabetized format.

You can bookmark the page for easy retrieval. Or you can print out our PDF so you can keep it by your desk.

The HTML.com Blog

Our blog includes posts covering all corners of the internet.

Why Did The British Government Ban These 10 Websites?

The UK uses an "adult content filter" and censors many respected websites. But what they mean by "adult content" may surprise you.

100+ Places to Post and Share Your Photos Online

Many dozens of places to upload and display your images. It's often **better to host your images away from your website**. Here are a number of choices.

Google Calendar: 50 Themes, Hacks & Add-Ons

Learn how to integrate your Google Calendar into your website.

Homebrew Nintendo Wii Hacks & Mods

Learn 100 cool Wii tips and tricks.

The 20 Best Internet Scam Stories

Read all about amazing internet scams that have rocked the world.

What Is Doxxing?

Find out **about online privacy** and the process of having your personal information released to the world.

The HTML.com Guide to Web Hosting

Keep an eye out for bundles which include site builders and extras — they are out there.

If you've already built your website then look no further than the HTML.com guide to web hosting.

We'll help you find the best hosting provider for your website.

Whether you are searching for a WordPress host, a cheap and cheerful space for your first website, or a dedicated hosting solution, our hosting section has reviews of all the big name hosting providers and a few smaller companies too, including:

SiteGround

This is one of the best hosting companies around with a **full range of plans** for whatever kind of hosting you need.

Bluehost

The first host to be **officially recommended by WordPress**. But they are a good host for any website.

iPage

One of the most affordable hosting companies around. If you want to **keep costs down** without losing quality and features, iPage is a good choice.
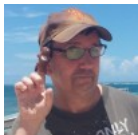
HostGator

One of the best all-around hosting companies — well worth checking out.

WP Engine

The number one host for **high-end WordPress hosting**.

Improve Your HTML Skills

Now that you've gotten started with HTML, you can **improve your skills**. It's exciting to see everything you can do with web pages. Check out more of our tutorials and start learning now!

Frank

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