Unit 2 Learning Diary

Learning HTML

A couple years back, I took an online course on web development but never really had the time to finish it. This was the course I took. I built a very simple website with unfinished HTML, CSS and Javascript. It was very simple and incomplete, and by now I have pretty much forgotten everything I learned. I still have access to this course and can use it to learn about HTML, CSS and Javascript. If there are any holes or gaps in the course, I will find other resources and link them here in my learning diary. Any other places where I use code snippets or the like, I will also link here.

Learning appropriate HTML style

I've started to correct the badly written HTML files that are provided in the course – sample1.html and sample2.html. After watching Rob Dey's videos on html, I have a pretty good idea of good HTML style, but in case I've missed anything, I went to w3schools.com to learn more.

I didn't use a tool to clean up the html files on its own. I went through manually, as advised, and improved the code in various ways – I closed unclosed tags, used lowercase letters on all the tags, took away lines much longer than 80 characters, indented lines for better structure, and gave the page a title.

Building my pages

These are the standards for A-grade HTML pages.

1. very well-structured, standards-compliant code with no visual mark-up
2. a large set of tags properly used
3. accessible to users with a wide range of disabilities (including visual, motor and cognitive)
4. well organized, with any use of the work of others properly cited
5. design decisions and content for the pages fully justified in the context of personas and scenarios, with a very clear rationale for every decision you make
6. critique of the template code identifies all of the errors and provides improvements that would make them perfectly formed, syntactically correct, and with all the necessary elements and attributes of a good HTML document
7. Excellent communication

I'm going to focus on (1), (2), (4), and (5) for now. I'm not entirely sure what (6) and (7) mean. Since I have all the pages planned out, I'll get the basics down and make sure the basic framework of my website is created. After I finish this, I'll make sure the pages are accessible to those with disabilities and figure out what (6) and (7) actually mean.

As of right now, I think there's very little I can do with HTML other than set the page's titles, put some headings on the pages, and some placeholder text. A lot of what I want to do requires using CSS and Javascript, which I don't know yet. It's instructed in the course that HTML cannot be used to make the page look aesthetically good; it's only used to set the framework. So, I think some of the pages might be very close to empty before I start learning CSS and Javascript.

These are the requirements for my Unit 2 submission:

1. A minimum of three HTML pages complying with XHTML 1.0 standards or better.
2. At least one image.
3. Hyperlinks between all pages (using relative URLs).
4. At least one hyperlink to an external website.
5. Sufficient text to require the use of at least two heading styles.
6. At least one list (ordered or unordered).
7. At least one
   tag, preferably more, with a specified name, to identify a section of a page. It would be best if this were something that you see the need to reformat later to change its appearance, position, or behaviour, for example sidebar floating on one side of the page.
8. At least one tag, preferably more, with a specified name, to identify a section of text within a paragraph or other block-level element. It would be best if this were something that you see the need to reformat later to change its appearance, position, or behaviour, for example, a change in typeface or font.
9. A table. Tables are only to be used for tabular data
0. A form, the contents of which are mailed to the author (you).

Having hyperlinks between all pages is easy, the home page already does that as of right now. External sites weren't really part of my project originally. I guess I can link the other Turri's website to the one I'm making.

I've decided to learn more about CSS before finishing my HTML pages. I would like to know more about how div tags work so my HTML pages will be better suited for their CSS upgrade. Right now, I've temporarily left off of Codermanual's videos on CSS and started to learn more about CSS here, at this very helpful C3schools website.

I just realized something. On the home page, there will be a navigation bar at the top with hyperlinks to the other main pages, but there won't be hyperlinks to ALL the pages. There will be a few pages only accessibly by first going to one page, and then clicking another link. For example, you will only be able to get to the pictures & videos section by first going to the "Development" page linked on the home

page and on every other major page. Then, there will be a link to the Pictures & Videos page and the Development page. I want this link to be under the navigation bar and disguised as a big button with a gif or a rotating gear.

For the Contact page, I have a form with name, email and comment fields that will be submitted to my email address upon clicking a "submit" button. I used a snippet of code to accomplish this, from this online source.

Now that the basic HTML pages are finished, I'll start adding the miscellaneous features such as alt attributes, author name and date of last modification, etc. I learned about alt attributes here.

I've now finished all the HTML pages. I'll describe the elements of these pages and how they relate to the personas I'm designed the website around. For convenience, I list the personas and scenarios here:

Personas

1. **Customer** – is a potential buyer and interested in what the company has to offer.
2. **Casual visitor** – is vaguely interested in the company and what it does, perhaps a family member.
3. **Pasta connoisseur**: Someone who is interested in pasta and how it is made.

Scenarios

1. **Customer Scenario 1**: A buyer has had trouble with a supplier due to unsanitary conditions. They are looking for another, more responsible supplier. They are visiting the website to see if Turri's places an emphasis on keeping their food and the environment in which it is made, clean.
2. **Customer Scenario 2**: A potential buyer is growing quickly. Their demands outweigh their available supplies. To expand, they need more pasta/rice. They are scouting for suppliers and come across Turri's website. In addition to the food they offer, they are also looking for a well-designed website. A smooth site indicates the company takes pride in what it does; this is always a good sign.
3. **Casual Visitor Scenario 1**: The visitor is a family member who has known about Turri's for a long time. The company is of close interest to them and they are naturally curious about the website; they aren't looking to be impressed by something really fancy, their demands are quite modest. They aren't looking for anything particular, just to look around.
4. **Casual Visitor Scenario 2**: someone is looking for work and they heard something about Turri's before; they think visiting the website might help them decide whether or not to apply for a job there.
5. **Casual Visitor Scenario 3**: for some reason or other, someone wants to contact a Turri's management person through email, so they go to the website in hope of finding one.
6. **Connoisseur Scenario 1**: A chef who regularly makes pasta on the job is curious about how some pasta is made. They visit the site to potentially gain some insight into this.

Home Page

The Home page has the Turri's logo and a navigation bar at the top, where you can go to any of the other main pages on the site. This suits all personas and scenarios – if they are looking for something, they will find the link to a resource here. Beneath the navigation bar, there are three questions – what do we make?, how do we make it?, and who are our customers?. Each of these questions has an answer below it. These "sections" are enclosed in div tags, anticipating their further styling when I get to CSS. At the bottom, there is a link to the original Turri's website – this fulfills the requirement of a link to an external site.

Products Page

The products page has icons for many of the products that Turri's makes along with placeholder text that will become simple descriptions of the products. The div tags are constructed so that each product icon and its description will be in a div of its own. I'm thinking ahead to CSS and Javascript here. The plan is to have information for potential customers and present it elegantly to impress them. This page is mainly for customers and fits Customer Scenario 1 and Customer Scenario 2.

History, Early History, and Later History

These pages are fully prepared for the history I'm going to fill them with. So far, there's only placeholder text and images, but once I have the information, I'll be able to fill it in nicely. These pages are for casual visitors.

Development, Pics & Vids

The development page will only have the title, the icon, the nav bar, some text, and a link to the Pics & Vids page. The Pics & Vids page has most of the pictures I took from the plants placed in temporal order. These pictures and videos start with the raw product, and follow it through the steps of development up until they are placed in the final package. These pages are for customers and pasta connoisseurs and fit Customer Scenario 2, Casual Visitor Scenario 2, and Connoisseur Scenario 1.

Sanitation

This page shows some of the procedures Turri's uses to keep its products and workspace clean. It's mainly for Customer Scenario 1 – where a customer is looking for a different, more sanitary supplier than the ones they currently have.

Workers

This page has some of the positions in Turri's and short descriptions. This is mainly for Casual Visitor Scenario 2 – where someone is looking for work.

Contact

This is where people come to find contact information to Turri personnel. This can be useful for customers and is suitable for Casual Visitor Scenario 3.