

Absolute Hyperlinks

An **absolute hyperlink** indicates the absolute location of a resource on the Web. Use absolute hyperlinks when you need to link to resources on other websites. The href value for an absolute hyperlink to the home page of a website includes the http:// protocol and the domain name. The following hyperlink is an absolute hyperlink to the home page of this book's website:

```
<a href="http://webdevfoundations.net">Web Development & Design Foundations</a>
```

Note that if we want to access a web page other than the home page on the book's website, we could also include a specific folder name and file name. For example, the following anchor tag configures an absolute hyperlink for a file named chapter1.html located in a folder named 6e on this book's website:

```
<a href="http://webdevfoundations.net/6e/chapter1.html">Web Development & Design Foundations Chapter 1</a>
```

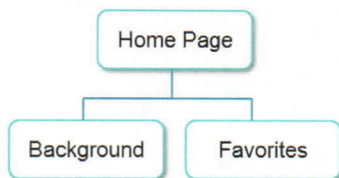


Figure 2.18 Site map

Relative Hyperlinks

When you need to link to web pages within your site, use a relative hyperlink. The href value for a relative hyperlink does not begin with the http:// and does not include a domain name. For a relative hyperlink, the href value will contain only the file name or file name and folder of the web page you want to display. The hyperlink location is relative to the page currently being displayed. For example, if you were

coding a home page (index.html) for the website whose site map is illustrated in Figure 2.18 and wanted to link to a page named contact.html located in the same folder as index.html, you would use the following code sample:

```
<a href="contact.html">Contact Us</a>
```



Hands-On Practice 2.12

The best way to learn how to code web pages is by actually doing it! Let's practice and create three pages in a sample website.

1. Create a new folder. Name your folder "mypractice". The site we will create here is an example of a personal website. It will contain a home page called index.html and two content pages called background.html and favorites.html. A sample site map (see Figure 2.18) shows

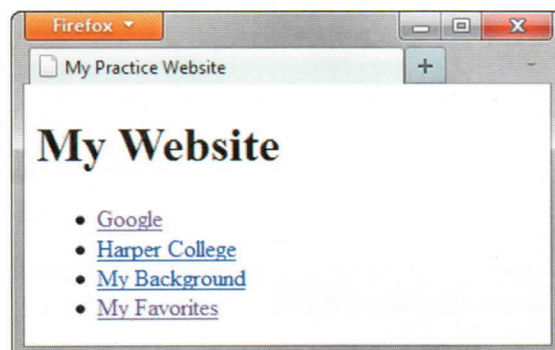


Figure 2.19 Sample index.html displayed in the Firefox browser

the organization of the site: a home page (index.html) with navigation hyperlinks to two other pages (background.html and favorites.html).

2. Now create the home page for your mypractice website, as shown in Figure 2.19. Launch a text editor. Select **File > Open** to edit the template file located at `chapter2/template.html` in the student files. Modify the title element and configure the following:

- A “My Website” heading—use `<h1>` tags
- An unordered list with the following:
 - An absolute link to your favorite search engine
 - An absolute link to the website of your school
 - A relative link to `background.html`
 - A relative link to `favorites.html`

The body section of your web page will be similar to the following code sample:

```
<body>
<h1>My Website</h1>
<ul>
  <li><a href="http://google.com">Google</a></li>
  <li><a href="http://harpercollege.edu">Harper College</a></li>
  <li><a href="background.html">My Background</a></li>
  <li><a href="favorites.html">My Favorites</a></li>
</ul>
</body>
```

Save your page as `index.html` in the `mypractice` folder. Display your page in a browser. It should look similar to the page shown in Figure 2.19. Compare your work to the sample (`chapter2/practice/index.html`) in the student files. Test your page by clicking each link. When you click the absolute links to your favorite search engine and your school, you should see those pages displayed if you are connected to the Internet. The relative links should not work yet; let's create the `background.html` page in Step 3.

3. Create the `background.html` page, as shown in Figure 2.20.

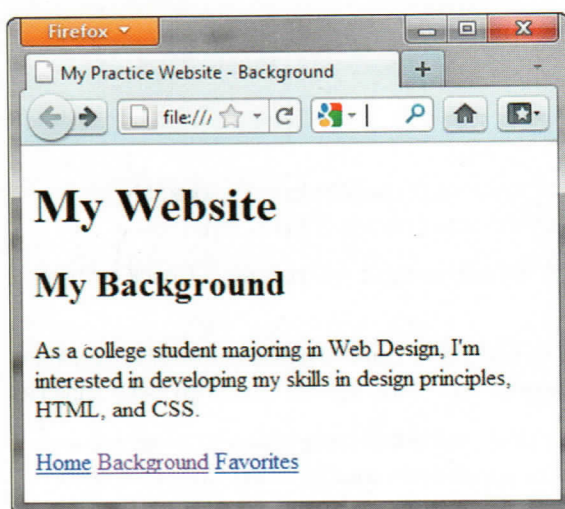


Figure 2.20 Sample `background.html` page

Let's work efficiently by building on the previous page. Launch a text editor and open the index.html file. Select File > Save As to save the file with the name background.html in the mypractice folder. In order to create a consistent logo for the site, do not change the h1 heading area. Replace the rest of the web page content with the following:

- A subheading of "My Background"—use <h2> tags
- A paragraph that contains one or two sentences about your background
- A navigation bar configured within a div that contains relative hyperlinks to the home page (index.html), the "My Background" page (background.html), and the "My Favorites" page (favorites.html). As shown in Figure 2.20, you will need to add a blank space between each anchor element. The body section of your web page will be similar to the following code sample:

```
<body>
  <h1>My Website</h1>
  <h2>My Background</h2>
  <p>As a college student majoring in Web Design, I'm interested
    in developing my skills in design principles, HTML, and CSS.</p>
  <div><a href="index.html">Home</a>
    <a href="background.html">Background</a>
    <a href="favorites.html">Favorites</a></div>
</body>
```

Save your file. Now test your index.html page again. This time, when you click the "My Background" hyperlink, your browser should display your new page. Click the "Home" hyperlink on your background.html page to redisplay your home page. Don't worry if these hyperlinks do not work perfectly the first time. If you have problems, carefully examine the source code of the pages, and verify the existence and location of the files by using Windows Explorer or the Mac Finder.

4. Using Step 3 as a guide, create the "My Favorites" page (favorites.html), and configure an unordered list of your favorite topics. See an example in the student files (chapter2/practice/favorites.html).



FAQ What if my relative hyperlink doesn't work?

Check the following:

- Did you save files in the specified folder?
- Did you save the files with the names as requested? Use Windows Explorer, My Computer, or Finder (Mac users) to verify the actual names of the files you saved.
- Did you type the file names correctly in the anchor tag's href property? Check for typographical errors.
- When you place your mouse cursor over a link, the file name of a relative link will display in the status bar in the lower edge of the browser window. Verify that the correct file name appears.

On many operating systems, such as UNIX or Linux, the use of uppercase and lowercase in file names matters, so make sure that the file name and the reference to it are in the same case. It's a good practice to use only lowercase letters for file names used on the Web.