

6

Introduction to HTML

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

You will learn about:

1. HTML
2. HTML Editor
3. HTML tags and tag attributes
4. important HTML tags



HTML

HTML stands for **Hyper Text Markup Language**. Hypertext is simply a piece of text which contain links to other texts whereas Markup Language is a way of writing style and layout information within a text document. HTML is an example of markup language. HTML is a simple scripting language, mainly used for developing web pages. It is easy to learn and simple to understand.

HTML document is a plain text file that contains text and HTML tags. It is also called a **web page**.

Before learning the language, the following points should be kept in mind:

- HTML is not a programming language but a markup language.
- It creates simple text files using any HTML editor.
- It consists of markup tags.
- It is saved with the extension of .htm or .html.
- It is not case sensitive, that is, <HTML>, <html> or <HTml> are the same.

HTML Editor

Before creating an HTML document, you must first learn about the HTML editor. HTML editor is a software application required to create web pages. These web pages can be viewed using any web browser such as Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, etc.

There are several types of HTML Editors. The main types are discussed here.

2. **Open** dialog box appears (Fig. 6.4).
3. Use the **Browse...** option to locate the HTML file.
Click **OK**.
4. The output appears in the form of a web page (Fig. 6.5).

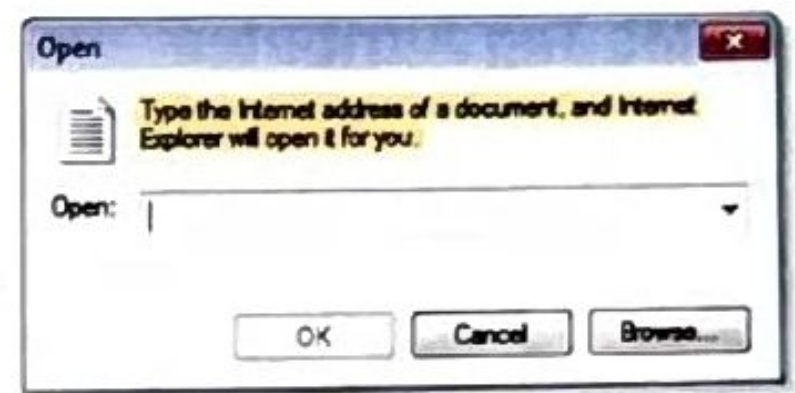


Fig. 6.4 Open dialog box

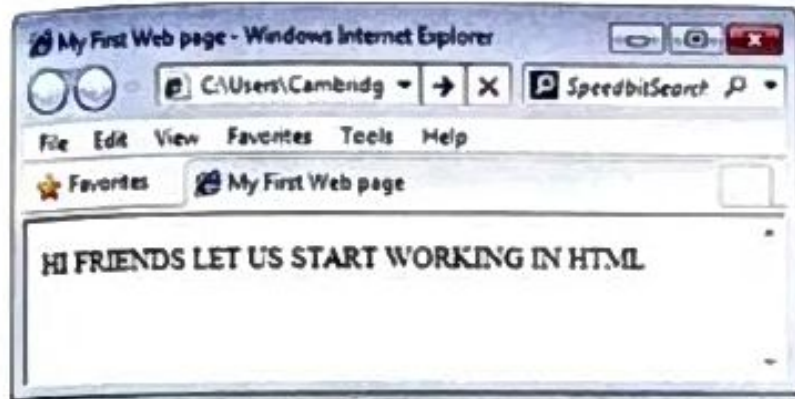


Fig. 6.5 HTML web page

TRY THIS!

Type the complete path of the HTML file saved in your computer in the Address Bar of the Internet Explorer to get the output.

HTML Tags

HTML markup tags are also called HTML tags. These denote the various elements in an HTML document. HTML tags are keywords enclosed in a pair of angular brackets, that is, `<` and `>`. These tags are usually paired (for example, `<HTML>` and `</HTML>`) to mark the start and end of an HTML instruction or HTML element. The first tag is known as the **opening tag** and the last tag is called the **closing tag**. The end tag or closing tag is preceded with a forward slash (`/`) within the angular brackets. There are two types of tags.

1. **Container tags:** These tags have a start and an end tag to an HTML element. For example, `...`, `<BODY> ... </BODY>`, etc.
2. **Empty Tags:** These tags have only an opening or a start tag and no closing tags to an HTML element. For example, ``, `` `<HR>`, etc.

HTML Elements

The content typed along with the start tag and the end tag is called the HTML element. For example, ` Click Start ` is one HTML element. HTML can also have nested elements. For example, ` <U> Click Start </U> `.

Note: The tags used here are for examples only. You will learn about these tags in a later chapter.

FACT FILE

The opening and closing of the tags should always follow a sequence, that is, the tag that opens first should be closed last. For example,

` <U> Click Start </U> ` is a correct sequence

` <U> Click Start </U>` is an incorrect sequence ✗

Body element

This element defines the document's body. This comes after the head element. The BODY tag is used to display text, images, links, etc. on the web page. This may contain several other tags (Fig. 6.7).

```
<HTML>
<HEAD>
<TITLE>
Click Start – Learning HTML
</TITLE>
</HEAD>
<BODY>
Learning HTML is an enjoyable
experience!
</BODY>
</HTML>
```

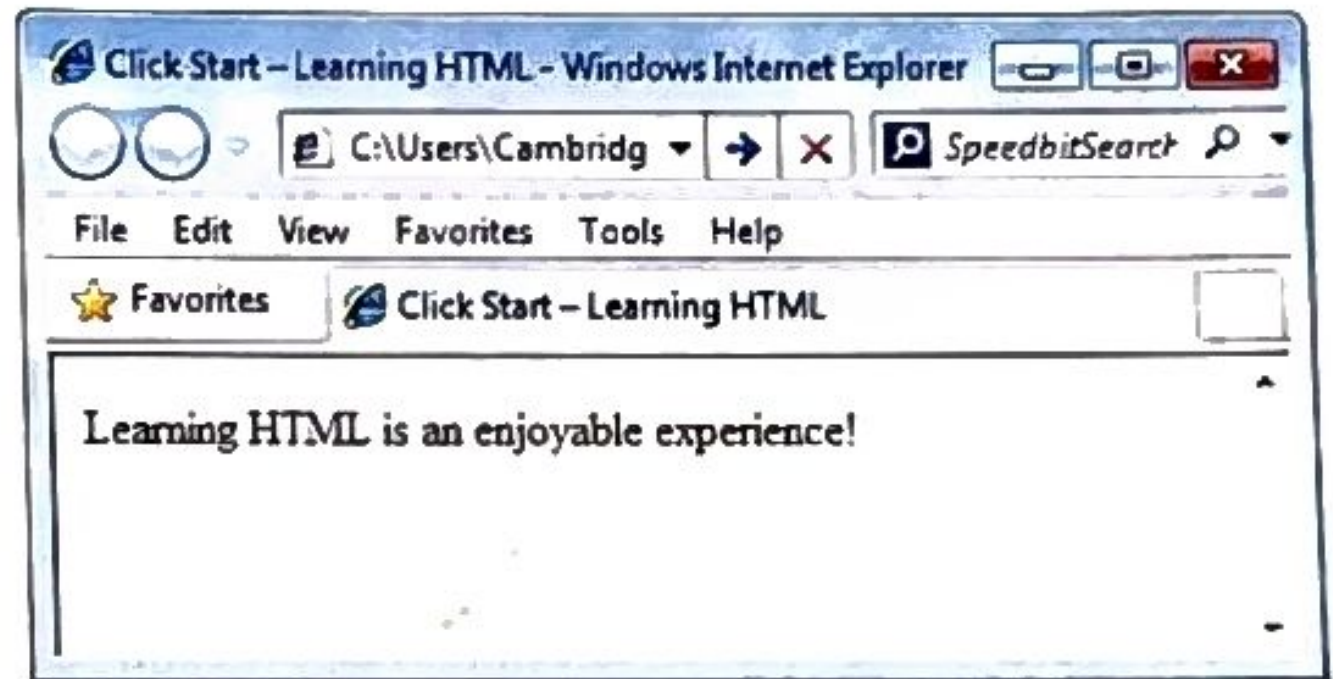


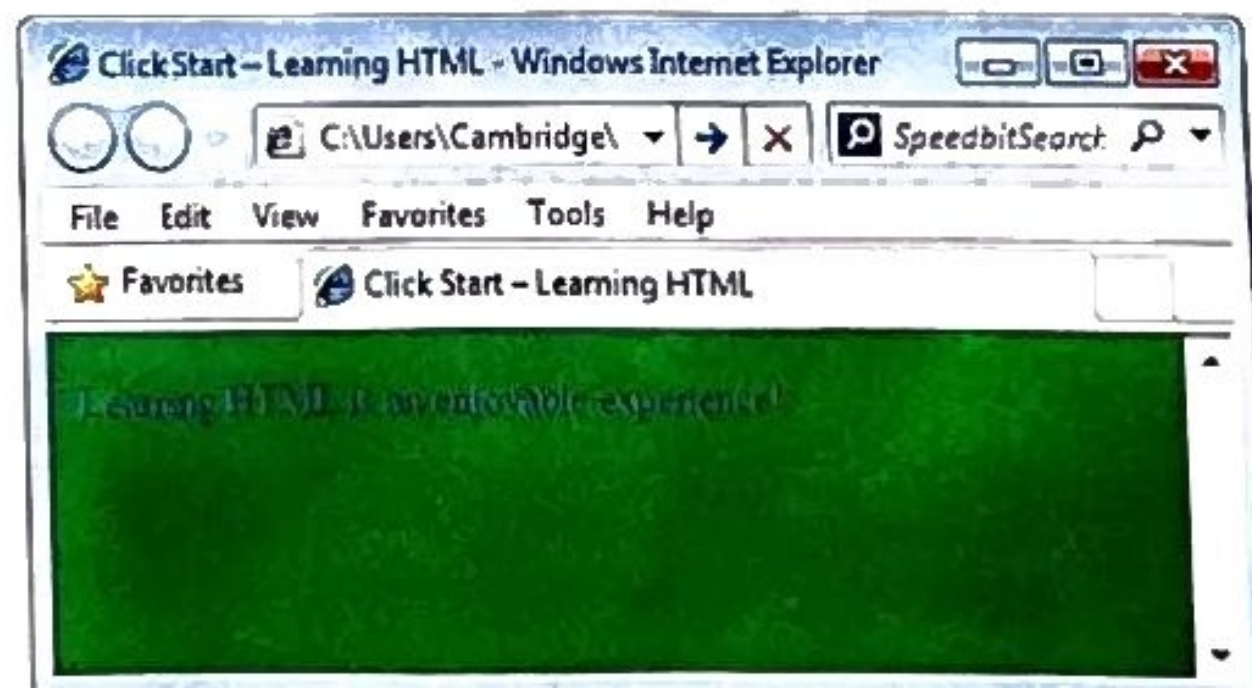
Fig. 6.7 Showing text on web page using BODY tag

The following are some important attributes of the <BODY> tag:

1. *Text*: This attribute specifies the color of the text of the entire document. The value can be the name of the color within quotes.
2. *Bgcolor*: This attribute specifies the color of the background of the web page.
3. *Leftmargin*: This attribute sets the left margin of the web page. The value can be given as a number or in percentage.
4. *Topmargin*: This attribute sets the margin at the top of the web page. The value can be given as a number or in percentage.

To illustrate the attributes of the BODY tag, let us see the following example (Fig. 6.8):

```
<HTML>
<HEAD>
<TITLE>
Click Start – Learning HTML
</TITLE>
</HEAD>
<BODY text="Blue" bgcolor="Green"
leftmargin="60" topmargin="50">
Learning HTML is an enjoyable experience!
</BODY>
</HTML>
```



<U>Underline text</U> is same as <U>Underline text </U>

- There should not be any space between letters of the tag names. For example, <HTML> is correct; <H TML>, <HT ML>, <H T M L> are incorrect.
- Attributes are always specified in the start tag.
- Attribute name is not case sensitive.

ACTIVITY

Complete the following activity.

1. Open notepad and write down the coding for creating a web page on 'My childhood friends'.
2. Let there be some background color of your choice.
3. The text should be in green color.
4. Save the file with the name 'MyFriends.html'.
5. Open the Internet Explorer or any other browser and execute your program.

GLOSSARY

BODY tag: It is used to display text, images, links, etc. on the web page.

Container tag: It adds a start and an end tag to an HTML element.

Empty tag: It is the tag that has a Start tag only, and no closing tags to an HTML element.

HEAD tag: It is the first element under the HTML tag that contains information about the HTML document.

HTML: It stands for Hyper Text Markup Language.

HTML tag attributes: It provides additional information about HTML elements.

HTML tag: It is used to identify the program as a standard HTML document.

HTML editor: It is a software application required to create web pages.

HTML element: It is the content typed along with start tag and end tag.

Hypertext: It is a piece of text that works as a link.

Markup Language: It is used for writing style and layout information within a text documents.

WYSIWYG editor: It allows you to create a web page without the use of the HTML tags.

TITLE tag: It displays the text that appears as the title of the web page in the Title Bar.