Intro Lab

Begin with some Housekeeping

1. Create a folder on your computer to hold all the files for this class. I suggest "JavaScript" without the quotes. I suggest you unpack all student data files into this folder.
2. Create a subfolder for this Intro Lab. I suggest "Intro Lab" without the quotes.
3. I provided a ZIP file with your Intro Lab assignment that contains the files you will need for this lab. Extract all files to your "Intro Lab" folder.

Inspect a little JavaScript

1. Among your "Intro Lab" files, open your MPL.htm file in Notepad++ (MAC users may use Text Wrangler or BBEdit).
2. Notice that this file is set up to validate to XHTML 1.0 Strict standards.
   a. Notice the xml declaration in line 1.
   b. Notice the DOCTYPE declaration in lines 3 and 4.
   c. Notice the xml namespace added to the opening html tag in line 6.
3. Run the file in your favorite browser. In Notepad++, go to Run … Launch in Firefox, or your other favorite browser.
4. It is JavaScript that adds the numbers to the bottom of the webpage. Refresh your browser two or three times and watch the numbers change. We may work with this a little more later on.

Validate under XHMTL 1.0 Strict

1. Go to http://validator.w3.org, and click the tab to "Validate by File Upload." Browse for your MPL.htm, and click "Check."
2. When the results display, notice the results.
   a. Note that the file was checked under XHTML 1.0 Strict. It was the DOCTYPE that told the validator that was what we wanted.
   b. Note that there is one error, and the explanation has nothing to do with the actual error.
   c. The actual error is confusion on the part of the validator. That same confusion will also exist with search engines and other html and JavaScript parsers. They are unable to tell what part of this script is JavaScript and what part of this script is HTML.
3. Let's go back to Notepad++ and fix it.
   a. Create a blank line above line 27 (under the opening script tag but before the showImg() function).
   b. On this new line type the following exactly: // <![CDATA[
      i. The "//" tells the JavaScript parser to ignore the CDATA tag as that has nothing to do with the JavaScript.
      ii. The CDATA tag (this is actually an opening CDATA tag; notice the two left hand square brackets) tells the XHTML parser to ignore everything that follows (until the closing tag; two right hand square brackets).
   c. Create a blank line above the closing script tag.
   d. On this new line type the following exactly: //]]>
      i. Again, the "//" tells the JavaScript parser to ignore the closing tag that follows it.
      ii. The closing tag for CDATA, "]]>," tells the XHTML parser to stop ignoring stuff.
4. Save MPL.htm and revalidate. You should get the green success message: "This document was successfully checked as XHTML 1.0 Strict!" If you do not, try again. **ALL HTML FILES IN THIS COURSE WILL BE VALIDATED TO XHTML 1.0 STRICT STANDARDS.**
5. ZIP MPL.htm and upload your ZIP file (must have the .zip suffix) to ELearning.