HTML Formatting Guidelines

Indents, White Space, and Line Breaks:

Children should be indented under their parent.

```
<!-- Recommended -->
<ul>Colors</ul>
   <li>Red</li>
   <li>White</li>
```

```
<!-- Not recommended -->
<ul>Colors</ul>
<li>Red</li>
<li>White</li>
```

Every parent-child relationship should be indicated with indents.

```
<!-- Recommended -->
<html lang="en">
   <head>
     <meta charset="utf-8">
     <title>My Title</title>
   </head>
   <body>
   </body>
```

```
<!-- Not recommended -->
<html lang="en">
<head>
</head>
<body>
</body>
```

Siblings should use same indent level so they are aligned.

```
<!-- Recommended -->
<h1>Page Heading</h1>
<p>A paragraph of witty text.</p>
```

```
<!-- Not recommended -->
<h1>Page Heading</h1>
   <p>A paragraph of witty text.</p>
```

Indents should consist of two spaces. Recommend setting software to specify TAB = 2 Spaces so that blocks of code can easily be selected and indented.

```
<!-- Recommended -->
<ul>Colors</ul>
  <li>Red</li>
```

```
<!-- Not recommended -->
<ul>Colors</ul>
        <li>Red</li>
```

There should be no white space to the sides of the equal sign on an attribute-value pair.

```
<!-- Recommended -->
<html lang="en">
```

```
<!-- Not recommended -->
<html lang = "en">
```

Every block element should begin on its own line.

```
<!-- Recommended -->
<h1>Page Heading</h1>
<p>A paragraph of witty text.</p>
```

```
<!-- Not recommended -->
<h1>Page Heading</h1><p>A paragraph of witty text.</p>
```

Opening and closing tags should consistently encase content.

```
<!-- Recommended -->
<h1>Page Heading</h1>
```

```
<!-- Not recommended -->
<h1>Page Heading
</h1>
```

Block level elements containing text and inline elements as children should be coded inline with the text. Block level elements that act solely as containers for other block level elements should be coded on their own line.

```
<!-- Recommended -->
<div>
   <p>A paragraph of witty text.</p>
</div>
```

```
<!-- Not recommended -->
<div><p>A paragraph of witty text.</p></div>
```

```
<!-- Not recommended -->
<div>
   <p>
     A paragraph of witty text.
   </p>
</div>
```

Do not tap [Enter] to create a hard break in your code. Let your software's Word Wrap feature wrap long lines automatically.

```
<!-- Recommended -->
<p>Long lines of text should wrap automatically within
your coding window. You should not tap [enter] to force
line breaks.</p>
```

```
<!-- Not recommended -->
<p>Long lines of text should wrap automatically within ↵
your coding window. You should not tap [enter] to force ↵
line breaks.</p>
```

  should never have any white space on either side.

```
<!-- Recommended -->
<p>Asheville, NC<p>
```

```
<!-- Not recommended -->
<p>Asheville,   NC<p>
```

Code Positioning/Formatting:

The `<br>` tag should always appear last on a line and immediately after text (or an image).

```
<!-- Recommended -->
<p>There's a lady who knows,<br>
all that glitters is gold.<p>
```

```
<!-- Not recommended -->
<p>There's a lady who knows,<br>all that glitters is
gold.<p>
```

Text directly within a tag should not be indented when the tag is inline with the text.

```
<!-- Recommended -->
<p>There's a lady who knows,<br>
all that glitters is gold.</p>
```

```
<!-- Not recommended -->
<p>There's a lady who knows,<br>
    all that glitters is gold.</p>
```

Use blank lines for readability to separate large chunks of related code. Do not overuse blank lines.

```
<!-- Recommended -->
<h1>Famous Brands</h1>
<h2>Fender</h2>
<p>Fender makes guitars, amps, and other musical
accessories.</p>
<p>Some Fender guitars are good. Some are not.</p>

<h2>Gibson</h2>
<p>Gibson makes guitars, amps, and other musical
accessories.</p>
<p>Some Gibson guitars are good. Some are not.</p>
```

```
<!-- Not recommended -->
<h1>Famous Brands</h1>

<h2>Fender</h2>

<p>Fender makes guitars, amps, and other musical
accessories.</p>

<p>Some Fender guitars are good. Some are not.</p>


<h2>Gibson</h2>

<p>Gibson makes guitars, amps, and other musical
accessories.</p>

<p>Some Gibson guitars are good. Some are not.</p>
```

End files with a single blank line.

```
<!-- Recommended -->
58]    </body>
59] </html>
60]
```

```
<!-- Not recommended -->
58]    </body>
59] </html>
```

Capitalization:

Use only lowercase for all code.

```
<!-- Recommended -->
<h1>Page Heading</h1>
<p>A paragraph of witty text.</p>
```

```
<!-- Not recommended -->
<H1>Page Heading</H1>
<P>A paragraph of witty text.</P>
```

The exception is the `<!DOCTYPE html>` tag, in which only the word "DOCTYPE" should be uppercase.

```
<!-- Recommended -->
<!DOCTYPE html>
```

```
<!-- Not recommended -->
<!doctype html>
```

```
<!-- Not recommended -->
<!DOCTYPE HTML>
```

Required tags and attributes

Although the HTML 5 specification says some of these are optional, we require them:

- `<!DOCTYPE html>` declaration
- HTML tag with lang attribute `<html lang="en">`
- HEAD tag
  - META tag with charset attribute (utf-8) must be first
  - TITLE tag must be second

```
<!-- Recommended -->
<head>
  <meta charset="utf-8">
  <title>Document Title</title>
</head>
```

  - BODY tag
  - Close all container tags.

```
<!-- Recommended -->
<p>A paragraph</p>
<p>Another paragraph.</p>
```

```
<!-- Not recommended -->
<p>A paragraph
<p>Another paragraph.
```

Quotes:

Always use double quotes for attribute values, never single or omitted quotes.

```
<!-- Recommended -->
<html lang="en">
```

```
<!-- Not recommended -->
<html lang='en'>
```

```
<!-- Not recommended -->
<html lang=en>
```

Always use straight quotes, not slant/curved/rounded/SmartQuotes

```
<!-- Recommended -->
<html lang="en">
```

```
<!-- Not recommended -->
<html lang="en">
```

Omit code held over from the XHTML days:

Void elements such as BR, HR, META, LINK, and IMG should not be closed.

```
<!-- Recommended -->
<p>There's a lady who knows,<br>
all that glitters is gold.<p>
<hr>
```

```
<!-- Not recommended -->
<p>There's a lady who knows,<br />
all that glitters is gold.<p>
<hr />
```

TYPE attribute on `<link>` and `<script>` tags should be omitted.

```
<!-- Recommended -->
<link href="styles.css" rel="stylesheet">
<script src="menu.js"></script>
```

```
<!-- Not recommended -->
<link href="styles.css" rel="stylesheet" type="text/css">
<script src="menu.js" type="text/javascript"></script>
```

Separation of Concerns:

Visual styling (CSS) and interactivity (JavaScript) should be externalized and not embedded in HTML code.

```
<!-- Recommended -->
<table>
```

```
<!-- Not recommended -->
<table border="1" bgcolor="#dedede" style="color: #f00;"
onclick="runFunction();">
```

CSS Formatting Guidelines

Capitalization:

All code should be lower case, unless required.

```
/* Recommended */
body {
   color: #3a3b3c;
}
```

```
/* Not recommended */
```

```
Body {
   Color: #3A3B3C;
}
```

Shorthand:

Use shorthand properties whenever possible.

```
/* Recommended */
td {
   padding: 10px 9px 10px 5px;
}
```

```
/* Not recommended */
td {
   padding-top: 10px;
   padding-bottom: 10px;
   padding-left: 5px;
   padding-right: 9px;
}
```

Zeros:

Omit units after "0" values, unless required.

```
/* Recommended */
  margin: 0;
```

```
/* Not recommended */
  margin: 0px;
```

Omit leading "0"s in values.

```
/* Recommended */
  opacity: .8;
```

```
/* Not recommended */
  opacity: 0.8;
```

Color Notation:

Use hex or rgb(a) values for all colors. Avoid named colors.

```
/* Recommended */
  color: #f00;
```

```
/* Not recommended */
  color: red;
```

Use hex-3 rather than hex-6 whenever possible.

```
/* Recommended */
  color: #3cd;
```

```
/* Not recommended */
  color: #33ccdd;
```

Declaration Order:

Declarations should be ordered alphabetically by property.

```
/* Recommended */
  background: rgba(100, 56, 72, .6);
  border: 1px solid #333;
  color: #3cd;
  font: 12px arial, helvetica, sans-serif;
  padding: 15px;
  text-align: center;
```

```
/* Not recommended */
  background: rgba(100, 56, 72, .6);
  color: #3cd;
  text-align: center;
  font: 12px arial, helvetica, sans-serif;
  padding: 15px;
  border: 1px solid #333;
```

Indents and white space:

The first line of each rule should include the selector and opening brace only, with a single space before the brace.

```
/* Recommended */
td {
  font-size: 14px;
  padding: 10px 9px 10px 5px;
}
```

```
/* Not recommended */
td {font-size: 14px;
  padding: 10px 9px 10px 5px;
}
```

```
/* Not recommended */
td{
  font-size: 14px;
  padding: 10px 9px 10px 5px;
}
```

Each declaration should be indented two spaces.

```
/* Recommended */
td {
   font-size: 14px;
   padding: 10px 9px 10px 5px;
}
```

```
/* Not recommended */
td {
font-size: 14px;
padding: 10px 9px 10px 5px;
}
```

The closing brace should not be indented so it is aligned with the selector(s).

```
/* Recommended */
td {
   font-size: 14px;
   padding: 10px 9px 10px 5px;
}
```

```
/* Not recommended */
td {
   font-size: 14px;
   padding: 10px 9px 10px 5px;
   }
```

A single blank line should separate every rule. There should be no blank lines within a declaration block.

```
/* Recommended */
td {
    font-size: 14px;
    padding: 10px 9px 10px 5px;
}

.highlight {
    background-color: #ff0;
}
```

```
/* Not recommended */
td {
    font-size: 14px;
    padding: 10px 9px 10px 5px;
}
.highlight {
    background-color: #ff0;
}
```

```
/* Not recommended */
td {
    font-size: 14px;

    padding: 10px 9px 10px 5px;
}
```

One space should be to the right of the colon in a declaration. No space should be to its left.

```
    /* Recommended */
      font-size: 14px;
```

```
/* Not recommended */
   font-size:14px;
```

Block content, such as rules within media queries, should be indented just as HTML's parent-child elements

```
/* Recommended */
@media only screen and (max-width: 500px) {
  body {
    margin: 0;
  }
}
```

```
/* Not recommended */
@media only screen and (max-width: 500px) {
body {
  margin: 0;
}
}
```

Grouped selectors should reside on separate lines with a comma after each (except the last one).

```
/* Recommended */
p,
blockquote,
.artist {
  font-size: 14px;
}
```

```
/* Not recommended */
p, blockquote, .artist {
  font-size: 14px;
}
```