

HTML Practice 3

Objective: Learn how to use links to other pages to allow the viewer to more easily see other information. The HTML `<a>` anchor tag is used to create links on a Web page. In this practice we will become more familiar with linking using relative URLs. We will also create a link or jump menu using named fragments on a page and linking to these destinations.

You may use the text editor of your choice for this practice.

- Step 1. Download the HTML3.zip file to your desktop.
Extract the HTML3 folder from the zipped file.
You should now have a HTML3 folder on your computer.
- Step 2. View the index.html page in a web browser.
This is a simple page with some headings and lists.
You will make the list items in the Favorite Things links to a Reading page, Movies page and Hiking page.
Open index.html in your text editor.
- Step 3. Links are created by adding an open and closing `<a>` anchor tag around text that you wish to become hypertext.
For this practice, we will use a relative path to the file we are linking to.
This tells the browser how to get to the file we are linking to from the current file.
Use this example to add your links:
`Hypertext `
Add a link to the first list item: Reading. Link to the Reading.html page.
Include the necessary folder names in your path to get to the Reading.html page. (Notice this file is nested inside two folders)
Add a link to the second list item: Go to the Movies. Link to the Movies.html page.
Include the necessary folder name in your path to get to the Movies.html page. (Notice that this file is nested inside one folder)
Add a link to the third list item: Hiking and Camping. Link to the Hiking.html page.
Include the necessary folder name in your path to get to the Hiking.html page. (Notice that this file is nested inside one folder)

Save your index.html page. View the index.html page in a web browser. Your links should appear as underlined blue hypertext. Test the links. At this point, you will have to use the Back button to return to the index page.

Step 4. We will now add links from each of the other pages in this site back to the home page, index.html.

Adding the target attribute to the anchor tag allows the designer to control whether or not a page opens in the same window or in a new window.

The `_blank` attribute opens the new page in its own window. The default is `_self` which opens in the same frame as the current document.

Only use `_blank` if you want to open a new window. The user may get annoyed if they have too many windows opened, so use `_blank` with discretion.

Find and open the Reading.html page in a text editor. Add a link to the text: Return Home which links to the index.html page.

Set the target attribute of this link to be `_blank`.

Use `../..` in the path of the file name to move up two folders. Save your Reading.html page.

Find and open the Movies.html page in a text editor. Add a link to the text: Return Home which links to the index.html page.

Use `../` in the path of the file name to move up one folder. Save your Movies.html page.

Find and open the Hiking.html page. Add a link to the text: Return Home which links to the index.html page.

Use `../` in the path of the file name to move up one folder. Save your Hiking.html page.

View the index.html page in a web browser.

Visit each link and return to the home page by hitting the Return to Home link. Notice the link from the Reading.html page back to the home page opens the home page in a new window.

Note: You should have a link from every page on a site back to the home page of the site.

Step 5. Often, you will want to provide a link menu or jump menu to a page that is more than one screen in length.

Open the index.html page in a text editor.

Go to the heading tag: A Few of My Favorite Things.

Add the id attribute to this heading tag to create a named fragment with the value: Top.

Go to the bottom of the index.html page. Add an anchor link to the text:
Return to Top.

Use the href attribute to create a link to the named anchor. Give it the value href= "#Top".

Save your index.html page. View your page in a web browser.

Test out the link to the Top named fragment. Notice it appears as a link at the bottom of the page.

Clicking on the link should return you to the top of the page.

Note: Values given to an id are case sensitive and must be unique on a page.

The id value must also not have any spaces in it.

Use the # to signify this is an internal link to a named fragment.

Step 6. Next we will add a jump menu at the top of the page that will link to each section.

Open the index.html page in a text editor.

Below the heading: A Few of My Favorite Things, add a paragraph tag with some text for your jump menu:

Things I Like | Pets | TV Shows | Books | Remarks

(Remember the space special character is:)

Step 7. Go to the heading tag: Things I Like to Do.

Add the id attribute to this heading tag to create a named fragment with the value: Things.

Go to the heading tag: Favorite Pets.

Add the id attribute to this heading tag to create a named fragment with the value: Pets.

Go to the text inside the heading tag: Favorite TV Shows.

Add the id attribute to this heading tag to create a named fragment with the value: TV.

Go to the text inside the heading tag: Favorite Books.

Add the id attribute to this heading tag to create a named fragment with the value: Books.

Go to the text inside the heading tag: Final Remarks.

Add the id attribute to this heading tag to create a named fragment with the value: Remarks.

Step 8. Go to the top of the page and create an anchor tag link in the jump menu.

Use the href attribute to create a link to the named anchor. Remember to use the "#" with the fragment name.

Save your index.html page. View your page in a web browser.
Test out your jump menu and also your Return to Top link.

Step 9. Open the index.html file in a text editor.

At the bottom of the page, you will change the name of the email recipient to be your name.

Create a mailto link around your name using the anchor tag.

The href will be `mailto:youremail@something`.

Save your index.html page. View your page in a web browser.

Try out your mailto link. It should begin to bring up the default email client. Go ahead and cancel.

Step 10. Validate your files using the validator found at: <http://validator.w3.org>.

Log into your account on the Yoda web server and upload entire HTML3 folder inside your Practices folder.

Conclusion:

Links allow a viewer movement from one page to another page. Linking to named fragments within a long web page make your page more “user-friendly.” Always test your site after you upload it to the web server. If paths to the file you are linking are incorrect, the links will not work on the web server. Use relative path names when linking to pages within your own site. Use absolute path names when linking to pages external to your site.