

Concise Notes on Chapter 4: Links (HTML Basics)

This chapter explains how to create links in HTML, a fundamental feature of the web that enables navigation between pages. Below are concise notes summarizing the key points from the provided document excerpt from *Wiley HTML and CSS (October 2011)*, organized for clarity.

Key Concepts

1. Introduction to Links:

- Links allow navigation between web pages, enabling browsing or surfing.
- Types of links: to other websites, pages on the same site, specific parts of a page, new browser windows, or email programs.

2. Creating Links (<a>):

- Use the <a> element with the href attribute to specify the destination.
- Text between <a> and is the clickable link text, which should describe the destination clearly (e.g., avoid “click here”).
- Example: IMDB links to IMDB with “IMDB” as the link text.

3. Linking to Other Sites:

- Use **absolute URLs** (full web address, including domain) in the href attribute.
- Browsers display links in blue with underlines by default.
- Example:

```
1 <ul>
2   <li><a href="http://www.empireonline.com">Empire</a></li>
3   <li><a href="http://www.metacritic.com">Metacritic</a></li>
4 </ul>
```

Result:

- [Empire](http://www.empireonline.com)
- [Metacritic](http://www.metacritic.com)

4. Linking to Pages on the Same Site:

- Use **relative URLs** (omit domain name) for pages within the same site.
- If pages are in the same folder, use the file name (e.g., `Home`).
- For different folders, specify the path relative to the current page.
- Benefits: Simplifies development on local machines and reduces typing.
- Example:

```

1 <ul>
2   <li><a href="index.html">Home</a></li>
3   <li><a href="about-us.html">About</a></li>
4 </ul>

```

5. Directory Structure and Relative URLs:

- Organize large websites with folders (directories) for sections (e.g., `movies/`, `music/`).
- **Root folder:** Contains all site files; often includes `index.html` as the homepage.
- Terminology: Parent, child, grandparent, grandchild describe folder relationships.
- Relative URL types:
 - **Same folder:** File name (e.g., `reviews.html`).
 - **Child folder:** Folder name, slash, file name (e.g., `music/listings.html`).
 - **Grandchild folder:** Child folder, slash, grandchild folder, slash, file name (e.g., `movies/dvd/reviews.html`).
 - **Parent folder:** `../`, file name (e.g., `../index.html`).
 - **Grandparent folder:** `../../`, file name (e.g., `../../index.html`).

6. Email Links:

- Use `<a>` with `href="mailto:email@address"` to open the user's email program.
- Example: `Email Jon` opens an email addressed to `jon@example.org`.

7. Opening Links in a New Window:

- Use the `target="_blank"` attribute to open links in a new window. Common for external sites, but avoid overuse.
- Example: `Internet Movie Database `.

8. Linking to Specific Parts of a Page:

- Add an `id` attribute to the target element (e.g., `<h1 id="top">`).
- Link using `` (e.g., `Top`). *id values must start with a letter*
- Example:

```

1 <h1 id="top">Film-Making Terms</h1>
2 <a href="#arc_shot">Arc Shot</a><br />
3 <h2 id="arc_shot">Arc Shot</h2>

```

```

4 <p>A shot in which the subject is photographed by an encircling
   camera</p>
5 <p><a href="#top">Top</a></p>

```

9. Linking to Specific Parts of Another Page:

- Combine URL (absolute or relative) with `id` value. *Example*: `<a href="http://www.example.com/"`

10. Example HTML Page:

- Demonstrates various link types: email, absolute URLs, relative URLs, and same-page links.
- Example:

```

1 <html>
2   <head>
3     <title>Links</title>
4   </head>
5   <body>
6     <h1 id="top">Film Folk</h1>
7     <h2>Festival Diary</h2>
8     <p>Please <a href="mailto:filmfolk@example.org">contact us</a>
        for more information.</p>
9     <h3>January</h3>
10    <p><a href="http://www.sundance.org">Sundance Film Festival</a></p>
11    <p><a href="about.html">About Film Folk</a></p>
12    <p><a href="#top">Top of page</a></p>
13  </body>
14 </html>

```

11. Summary:

- Links use `<a>` with `href` to specify destinations.
- Relative URLs are preferred for same-site links; absolute URLs for external sites.
- Email links use `mailto:`.
- Use `target="_blank"` for new windows and `id` attributes for in-page links.