25 Special Characters

**Special Characters**

Certain characters in HTML are reserved, such as the less-than (**<**) and greater-than (**>**) signs, and the ampersand (**&**) character. If you type characters like these directly into HTML code, you will usually (although not always) get either a broken web page, or gibberish characters on the screen. In order to display reserved characters, you must use character entity references, also known as escape sequences or escape characters.

The syntax for escape characters in HTML is always the same: The ampersand (**&**) character, followed by the character code, and ending with a semi-colon (**;**). The character codes may be represented either by name (named entity) or by number (numeric entity); named entities are special text abbreviations of the character name, while numeric entities are special number codes representing the character preceded by a pound (**#**) sign. Remember: these codes MUST start with an ampersand and end with a semi-colon.

Examples:

Character: **<** (less-than sign)  
Escape Character: **&lt;** or **&#060;**

Character: **>** (greater-than sign)  
Escape Character: **&gt;** or **&#062;**

Character: **©** (copyright symbol)  
Escape Character: **&copy;** or **&#169;**

Character: **&** (ampersand)  
Escape Character: **&amp;** or **&#038;**

**Note**: Firefox will sometimes display an apostrophe or quotes as hex characters or as a ?

The reason is that the user has used a **curly** apostrophe or quotes (probably copied and pasted from a doc file)

You can fix this by replacing the **curly** apostrophe or quotes with the proper character from your keyboard. Alternatively:

Replace the curly apostrophe with &#039;

Replace the curly quotes with &#034;

For full special character list, see:

<http://www.utexas.edu/learn/html/spchar.html>

Another invalid character that will show ? involves an accent over a character.  
  
for ex: É (use &Eacute;)  
  
For full accent list, see  
<http://www.tlt.psu.edu/suggestions/international/web/codehtml.html#accent>