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| A picture of a winding road and trees  Web design and development | Week 1 |

**Creating Your First HTML Page**

1. Start with a plain text document:
   * On Windows: right-click → *New* → *Text Document*.
   * Change the extension from .txt to .html.
   * Example: name it **index.html** (all lowercase).
2. Why lowercase?
   * Windows may ignore case, but most web servers run on Linux.
   * On Linux, Index.html ≠ index.html. Using uppercase might break your site when you upload it.
3. If your computer warns you “the file might become unusable” when changing the extension, just confirm — we want .html.
4. Once changed, the file icon usually updates to show it can be opened in a browser (like Chrome).
5. Opening this file in a browser at this stage shows a blank page (because no code is inside yet).

Editing the File

* You need a plain text editor, not Word.
* Common editors: **Notepad++**, **VS Code**, Atom (Mac/Windows).
* Open your index.html in one of these editors.

Tip: Make your text bigger when coding. In Notepad++, zoom with **Ctrl + mouse wheel**. This helps catch mistakes more easily.

Building the HTML Skeleton

We start with **5 essential tags**:

1. <!DOCTYPE html> tells the browser we’re using HTML5.
2. <html> … </html> wraps everything (the root).
3. <head> … </head> contains metadata about the page.
4. <title> … </title> defines the page title (shows up on browser tab).
5. <body> … </body> holds the visible content (text, images, etc.).

**Best practice:**

* Always open **and close tags** immediately before adding content.
  + Example:
    - <html>
    - </html>
    - Then add child elements inside (nested in with indentation)

**Indentation:**

* Use **tabs** rather than spaces so everything lines up neatly.
* Example:
* <html>
* <head>
* <title>My first page</title>
* </head>
* <body>
* <p>This is my page</p>
* </body>
* </html>

**Testing the Page**

* Save the file (**Ctrl+S**) → refresh the browser.
* At first, only the page **title** appears in the browser tab.
* Adding content (like <p>This is my page</p>) makes visible text appear.
* You can duplicate content quickly (e.g., in Notepad++ with **Ctrl+D**).

**Linking an External CSS File**

1. Inside your <head>, add:
2. <link rel="stylesheet" href="style.css">
   * link = the tag.
   * rel="stylesheet" = defines the relationship (it’s a stylesheet).
   * href="style.css" = points to the CSS file name.
3. This tag is **self-closing** (no separate closing tag). In HTML5, /> at the end is optional but still okay to add.
4. Create a new file called **style.css** (same folder as your HTML file). If they aren’t in the same folder, the HTML won’t find the CSS without more advanced “pathing.”

Adding CSS Rules

**In style.css:**

* **Targeting paragraphs (<p>):**
* p {
* color: blue;
* font-family: Helvetica;
* }
  + p is the **selector** (what to style).
  + color and font-family are **properties**.
  + blue and Helvetica are the **values**.
  + End each rule with a **semicolon** ;.
* **Targeting a heading (<h1>):**
* h1 {
* color: red;
* font-family: Georgia;
* }
* **Targeting everything in <body> (global change):**
* body {
* font-size: 200%;
* }

This doubles the default font size for everything inside <body>.

Result

* Paragraphs (<p>) appear in **blue Helvetica**.
* Headings (<h1>) appear in **red Georgia**.
* If you use the body selector, all text grows larger.

**Final Exercise (Practice)**

* You’ll be given sample HTML and CSS files (some broken).
* Your task: **fix them** by:
  + Making sure tags are properly opened/closed.
  + Correcting tag names.
  + Fixing CSS syntax (colons, semicolons, braces).