

# How to Deploy HTML Files Using GitHub Pages

Step-by-Step Guide for Students

## □ What You Need Before Starting

- ✓ A GitHub account (free - sign up at [github.com](https://github.com))
- ✓ Your HTML file ready (can include CSS and JavaScript files too)
- ✓ Your main HTML file MUST be named `index.html`

□ **IMPORTANT:** Your main HTML file must be named **index.html** for GitHub Pages to work properly!

## Step 1: Create a New Repository

- 1. Go to GitHub.com and log in to your account
- 2. Click the green 'New' button (or the '+' icon at top right)
- 3. Give your repository a name  
Example: my-first-website, portfolio, project-name
- 4. Make sure it's set to 'Public' (free hosting only works for public repos)
- 5. Check the box 'Add a README file' (optional but recommended)
- 6. Click 'Create repository' button

## Step 2: Upload Your HTML File

- 1. You'll now be on your repository page
- 2. Click 'Add file' button, then select 'Upload files'
- 3. Drag and drop your files OR click 'choose your files'
- **4. Make sure you upload:**
  - `index.html` (your main HTML file - REQUIRED)
  - Any CSS files (like `style.css`)
  - Any JavaScript files (like `script.js`)
  - Any images you use in your website
- 5. Scroll down and click the green 'Commit changes' button

## Step 3: Enable GitHub Pages

- 1. Click on 'Settings' tab (at the top of your repository)
- 2. Scroll down and find 'Pages' in the left sidebar menu
- 3. Under 'Source', click the dropdown that says 'None'
- 4. Select 'main' (or 'master') branch
- 5. Keep the folder as '/' (root)
- 6. Click 'Save' button
- **7. Wait 1-2 minutes for deployment**

## Step 4: Get Your Website Link

- 1. Stay on the 'Pages' settings page (or refresh it)
- 2. At the top, you'll see a green box with your website link
- 3. Your link will look like:  
`https://your-username.github.io/repository-name/`
- 4. Click the link to view your live website! ☐
- 5. Share this link with anyone - your website is now live on the internet!

## □ Quick Visual Guide

Your Files → Upload to GitHub → Enable Pages → Get Live Link

## □ Example File Structure

Your repository should look like this:

```
my-website/
    ├── index.html      (REQUIRED - your main page)
    ├── style.css       (optional - your styles)
    ├── script.js       (optional - your JavaScript)
    └── images/
        ├── logo.png
        └── photo.jpg
```

## □ How to Update Your Website

- 1. Go to your repository on GitHub
- 2. Click on the file you want to edit (like index.html)
- 3. Click the pencil icon (☐) to edit
- 4. Make your changes
- 5. Scroll down and click 'Commit changes'
- 6. Wait 1-2 minutes, then refresh your website to see updates

## □ Common Problems & Solutions

**Problem:** Page shows 404 error

**Solution:** Make sure your main file is named **index.html** (not Index.html or home.html)

**Problem:** Changes don't appear on website

**Solution:** Wait 1-2 minutes after making changes. Clear your browser cache (Ctrl + F5)

**Problem:** Images don't show up

**Solution:** Check your image paths. Use relative paths like 'images/photo.jpg' not 'C:/Users/...'

**Problem:** CSS not loading

**Solution:** Check the link in your HTML: <link rel="stylesheet" href="style.css">

## □ Pro Tips

- ✓ Always name your main page index.html
- ✓ Use lowercase for all file names (avoid spaces)

- ✓ Test your website locally before uploading
- ✓ Keep your repository public for free hosting
- ✓ Organize files in folders (images/, css/, js/)
- ✓ Write clear commit messages when updating files

## □ Practice Exercise

Create a simple HTML page with:

- • Your name as a heading
- • A paragraph about yourself
- • A list of your hobbies
- • A link to your favorite website

Then follow the steps above to deploy it on GitHub Pages!

## □ Quick Summary

- 1 □ Create repository on GitHub
  - 2 □ Upload index.html and other files
  - 3 □ Go to Settings → Pages
  - 4 □ Select 'main' branch and save
  - 5 □ Get your live website link!
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Congratulations! Your website is now live! □

You are now a web developer!