What you write (the HTML)

So, you know HTML is the key to getting a browser to display your pages, but what exactly does HTML look like? And what does it do?

Let's have a look at a little HTML…imagine you're going to create a web page to advertise the *Head First Lounge*, a local hangout with some good tunes, refreshing elixirs, and wireless access. Here's what you'd write in HTML:

```
<html>
  <head>
    <title>Head First Lounge</title>  Ⓐ
  </head>
  <body>
    <h1>Welcome to the Head First Lounge</h1>  Ⓑ
    <img src="drinks.gif">  Ⓒ
    <p>
 Ⓓ   Join us any evening for refreshing elixirs,
      conversation and maybe a game or
      two of <em>Dance Dance Revolution</em>.  Ⓔ
      Wireless access is always provided;
      BYOWS (Bring your own web server).
    </p>
    <h2>Directions</h2>  Ⓕ
    <p>
 Ⓖ   You'll find us right in the center of
      downtown Webville. Come join us!
    </p>
  </body>
</html>
```

We don't expect you to know HTML yet.

Relax At this point you should just be getting a feel for what HTML looks like; we're going to cover everything in detail in a bit. For now, study the HTML and see how it gets represented in the browser on the next page. Be sure to pay careful attention to each letter annotation and how and where it is displayed in the browser.

What the browser creates

When the browser reads your HTML, it interprets all the *tags* that surround your text. Tags are just words or characters in angle brackets, like <head>, <p>, <h1>, and so on. The tags tell the browser about the *structure and meaning* of your text. So rather than just giving the browser a bunch of text, with HTML you can use tags to tell the browser what text is in a heading, what text is a paragraph, what text needs to be emphasized, or even where images need to be placed.

Let's check out how the browser interprets the tags in the Head First Lounge:

Notice how each tag in the HTML maps to what the browser displays.

Head First Lounge (A)

http://lounge.wickedlysmart.com/

Welcome to the Head First Lounge (B)

(C)

(E)

(D) Join us any evening for refreshing elixirs, conversation and maybe a game or two of *Dance Dance Revolution*. Wireless access is always provided; BYOWS (Bring your own web server).

Directions (F)

(G) You'll find us right in the center of downtown Webville. Come join us!