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## Understanding HTML

HTML, which stands for Hypertext Markup Language, is a programming language that allows for developers to create text on a website, give it structure, and work together with languages such as CSS and JavaScript to create a fully functional and aesthetic website. Through a series of tags, programmers can create a number of elements, such as paragraphs and headings, to bring a barebones version of a web page to life. Once this HTML is laid out, other languages can then be used to flesh that webpage out and make it more accessible.

Version 1.0 of HTML was released in 1993 and, while basic, created the field of web development. This version included ways to add structure to a web page but lacked heavily in styling options compared to modern versions.

Two years later, in 1995, HTML 2.0 was released. This was the first version of HTML to begin standardizing rules, which is key to having a more accessible and understandable programming language. 2.0 also introduced forms, allowing users on a website to send data to the owner for collection.

In 1997, HTML 3.2 was released. This version saw the release of even more form elements, allowing for the expansion of user data, as well as the addition of CSS. CSS allowed programmers to completely overhaul the look of their website, doing away with the bland nature of HTML when implemented alone. Along with these features, 3.2 allowed developers to have

more control over their images, text, and other elements, along with a more diverse set of characters to encompass the ever-growing presence of the web at the time.

The next major HTML version, 4.01, was released in 1999. The implementation of CSS into developers HTML pages was made simpler by adding the `<link>` tag. As per the past versions, 4.01 also saw the expansion of the tags, as well as tables.

Finally, HTML 5.0 was released in 2008. New form elements were added to keep up with the rapidly developing web, such as an input tag that allowed users to submit their email, as well as new ways to capture passwords more securely. Audio tags were also released with version 5.0, as well as tags which allowed developers to better organize and structure their websites.

Throughout this week, I have been exposed to HTML and the ways I can use other languages to influence it. By implementing structural guidelines such as `<body>` and `<head>` tags, I am better able to keep track of my code as it grows. I can make use of tags like `<p>` and `<h1>` to begin writing a skeletal version of what will soon become a fully functional website. While HTML has some basic standardized style that comes with it, without the CSS that will be applied later in development, things will remain fairly basic, but a few aesthetic changes can be made in HTML itself, such as a `<dialogue>` tag. As your code becomes more tangled and muddled, it's important to keep things structured. Line breaks and dead space generally do not affect the code, and are a good way to keep track of what code lies within others. Also, using tags like `<div>` help break up different tags and allow for even greater levels of customization in CSS. While the understanding I have of HTML at the moment is basic, becoming familiar with the language and how to navigate it is integral to master before tackling more difficult languages, and HTML provides a fantastic foundation for the beginner coder.

