

Lesson:

Anchor Tag



Anchor Tag

An anchor tag in HTML is represented by the `<a>` element and is used to create hyperlinks within a web page. It allows you to link to other web pages, files, sections within the same page, email addresses, and more. The anchor tag is one of the fundamental elements for navigation and linking in HTML.

Let us look at the basic syntax

Unset

```
<a href="URL">Link Text</a>
```

The most commonly used attributes with the anchor tag are

- href
- target
- rel

1. href (Hypertext Reference):

It specifies the destination URL or target of the link.

Ex:

Unset

```
<a href="https://pwskills.com">Visit PWSkills website</a>
```

With this a link will be created on the text Visit PWSkills website and on clicking on this text the user will be redirected to pwskills.com in the same tab.

2. target:

It specifies where the linked document should be displayed.

- **_self:** This is the default value if we do not specify any target attribute. This means open the link in the same window

JavaScript

```
<a href="https://pwskills.com" target="_self">Visit  
PWSkills website</a>
```

- **_blank:** If we use _blank this means open the link in a new tab.

Ex:

Unset

```
<a href="https://pwskills.com" target="_blank">Visit  
PWSkills website</a>
```

In the above code example, we have declared target="_blank" and whenever someone tries to open this link it will open in a new tab, unlike the previous example where it opened in the same tab.

- **_parent**: the parent browsing context of the current one. If no parent, behaves as **_self**.

Ex:

JavaScript

```
<iframe width="300" height="100"  
        style="border:3px dashed #808cf8;padding:30px 0 0  
30px"  
  
        srcdoc="<a target='_parent'  
href='https://wikipedia.com'>Wikipedia</a>">  
</iframe>
```

In the example above, we have an iframe and a target _parent attribute, when you click on Wikipedia the link will open outside the iframe, if there was no _parent then it would open inside the iframe.

- **_top**: the topmost browsing context (the "highest" context that's an ancestor of the current one). If there are no ancestors, it behaves as **_self**.

Ex:

JavaScript

```
<iframe width="300" height="100"  
        style="border:3px dashed #808cf8;padding:30px 0 0  
30px"  
        srcdoc="<a target='_top'  
href='https://wikipedia.com'>Wikipedia</a>">  
</iframe>
```

This unlike the _parent will move to the outermost section which is the browser and replace the page. Example, if we are in an online editor where the left hand side has the editor and the right hand side has output preview, using _top will replace the entire page with the destination URL

This is the biggest difference between `_parent` and `_top`, `_parent` will replace the parent whereas `_top` will replace from the browser window.

- **`target="framename"`** attribute value on an `<a>` tag. Clicking the link will open the linked page in the specified `<iframe>`

Ex:

```
JavaScript
<p>
    Click to learn more about
    <a target="display-frame"
        href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physics_Wallah"
    >Physics Wallah</a>.
</p>

<iframe name="display-frame"
        style="width:100%;height:600px;border:2px solid
#4e46e5;"></iframe>
```

3. rel

Specifies the relationship between the linked document and the current document. It provides additional information about the link.

Common values include `nofollow`, `noopener`, `noreferrer`, `stylesheet`, `icon`, and custom values.

- **`rel="nofollow"`:**

Indicates to search engines that they should not follow the link or pass any ranking authority to the linked page.

Ex:

```
Unset
<a href="https://pwskills.com" rel="nofollow">Visit
PWSkills website</a>
```

- **`rel="noopener" (or) rel="noreferrer"`:**

These values are used to enhance security when opening links in a new tab or window, preventing the newly opened page from accessing the `window.opener` object of the originating page.

When we use **`target="_blank"`** the default behavior for rel is `noreferrer`

Ex:

Unset

```
<a href="https://pwskills.com" target="_blank">Visit  
PWSkills website</a>
```

- **rel="stylesheet":**

Specifies that the linked document is a style sheet used to define the visual presentation of the current document.

This is one of the most common and important ones out there that you will see yourself using whenever you have an external stylesheet. Mostly you will see this in your head tag.

Ex:

Unset

```
<link href="style.css" rel="stylesheet" />
```

- **rel="icon":**

Specifies that the linked document is an icon or image to be used as the website's favicon (a small icon displayed in the browser's tab or bookmark).

Ex:

Unset

```
<link rel="icon" href="favicon.ico" type="image/x-icon" />
```

- **rel="custom value":**

It is also possible to define custom rel values to represent specific relationships or metadata associated with the link. These custom values can be used for various purposes, such as indicating authorship, licensing, or alternate language versions.

Let us now look at how we can link to a different section in the same page

Ex:

```
Unset
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
  <head>
    <meta charset="UTF-8" />
    <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width,
initial-scale=1.0" />
    <title>Home</title>

    <style>
      .section {
        height: 100vh;
      }

    </style>
  </head>
  <body>
    <ul>
      <li><a href="#section-1">Section 1</a></li>
      <li><a href="#section-2">Section 2</a></li>
    </ul>
    <div class="section" id="section-1">
      <h1>Section 1</h1>
    </div>
    <div class="section" id="section-2">
      <h1>Section 2</h1>
    </div>
  </body>
</html>
```

In the example code above, we can see I have 2 sections with **section-1** and **section-2 id** respectively (If you do not know what ID and classes are do not worry, we will learn them later in the course). I have given these **ids** to the href attribute in the anchor tag. Now when we click on the anchor tag they will jump down to the respective section matching the **id**.

Let us now see how we can link another page of our website using anchor tag

Ex:

```
Unset
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
  <head>
    <meta charset="UTF-8" />

    <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width,
initial-scale=1.0" />
    <title>Home</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    <a href="about.html">About</a>
  </body>
</html>
```

In the code example above, we can see we have an anchor tag with href value about.html. We need to make sure we have a file called about.html in our path similar to our root document. If the file name matches then on clicking the link we will be redirected to that page, in our case it is about.html.

You can check the about.html code that I have in my about.html file

```
Unset
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
  <head>
    <meta charset="UTF-8" />
    <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width,
initial-scale=1.0" />
    <title>About Page</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    <h1>About page</h1>
  </body>
</html>
```