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## Putting the "M" in HTML

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So the "M" in HTML stands for "Markup", but what does Markup really mean? Essentially, it means to annotate a document with extra information. Things like where different sections and paragraphs begin and end, which part is the title, which things should be emphasized and so on.

There are many ways to markup a document, but HTML borrows a technique from an ancestor language, SGML (Standard Generalized Markup Language), which uses angle brackets ("`<`" and "`>`") to separate the annotations from the regular text. In HTML these annotations are called "tags".

For example, consider the following chunk of HTML code:

```
1.    <body>
2.        <h1>A Tale of Two Cities</h1>
3.        <p>
4.            It was the best of times, it was the worst of
times, . . . .
5.        </p>
6.        . . .
7.        <p>
8.            . . . it is a far, far better rest
9.            that I go to than I have ever known.
10.       </p>
11.    </body>
```

If you eliminated everything in between the angle brackets from the text, for most purposes it would still read the same:

### A Tale of Two Cities

```
It was the best of times, it was the worst of times . . . .  
. . .  
. . . it is a far, far better rest  
that I go to than I have ever known.
```

Once you know that everything in angle brackets is "meta-information", it leaves a lot of flexibility. You can put a lot of different things in between those brackets without any of it showing up (directly) in your finished document. And, though you don't usually see directly what's in those angle brackets, they can often have a big effect on what your Web page looks like as well as how it responds and interacts with you.

### Try It Out!

I expect at this point you may be longing to write some HTML code. As is the tradition in programming tutorials, we'll pause here to create a simple "Hello HTML" program. Please choose any Web editor of your liking.

**Note:** If you wish to share your HTML code in the discussions, you can paste your code directly in a discussion forum post (highlight code and Ctrl+K/use the code widget). But it's better to use one of the following online code editors:

- JS Bin: <http://jsbin.com> (JS Bin tutorial)
- CodePen: <http://codepen.io> (CodePen tutorial)

These are HTML, CSS, and JavaScript code editors that preview/showcase your code bits in your browser. It helps with cross-device testing, real time remote pair programming.