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Links

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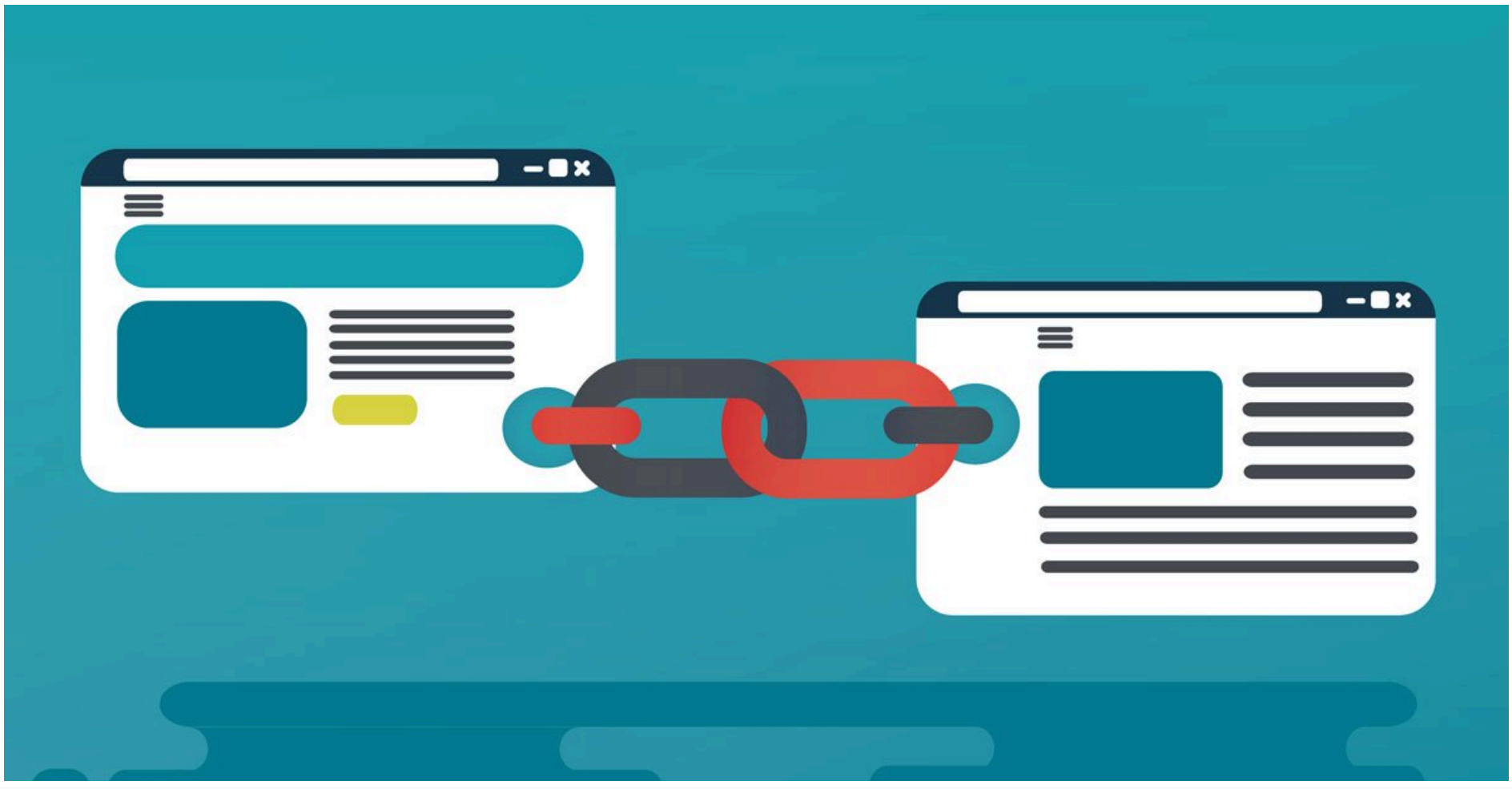
Understanding Links

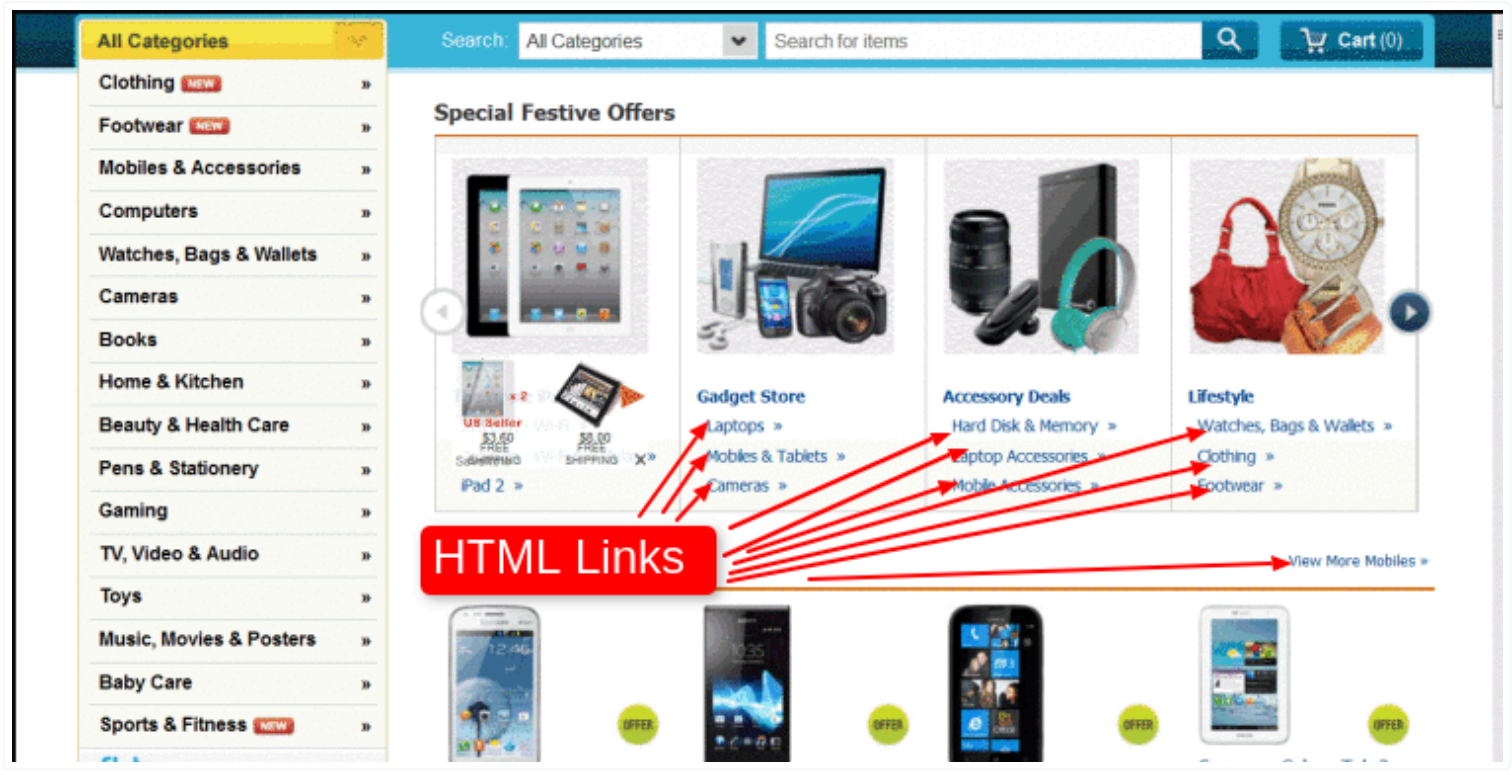


As of now you know how to create headings and paragraphs in your HTML page.

But what if you want to create two or three HTML pages and you want to go from one page to another?

This is where we make use of links.

Links help us navigate from one HTML page to another HTML page. Clicking on a link will take you to another page.



Example of Links in a webpage

Syntax

A HTML link element looks like this

```
<a href=""></a>
```

COPY

The above code has two parts.

- `a`
- `href`

Let's try to understand what are they.

Just like `h1` denotes heading and `p` represents paragraph element, links are created using the `a` tag.

`href` is called as an **attribute** of the `a` tag.

An attribute adds some extra information about the html tag. In this case, this attribute mentions where the browser should be redirected to, when the link is clicked.

```
<a href="test.html">Click Me!</a>
```

COPY

This code means that when you click on the text "Click Me!" that is displayed in the browser, it will take you to a new HTML page called test.html

Types of Links

Depending on where the link points to, there are different types of link.

1. Internal Links
2. External Links
3. Bookmark Links

Internal Links

The link points to a file situated in the same computer/server.

Let me explain in detail.

Imagine you have a file called `hello.html` which has the following code in it.

```
<a href="test.html">Click Me!</a>
```

COPY

Here, the file `test.html` is situated in the same computer as `hello.html`

ie. Both `hello.html` and `test.html` are in the same computer.

So they are called as **Internal Links**. They usually represent the same website.

ie. links within www.twitter.com or links within www.AnyWebSite.com

External Links

The link points to a file situated in a DIFFERENT computer/server.

Let me explain this also in detail.

Imagine you have a file called `hello.html` which has the following code in it.

```
<a href="http://www.facebook.com/login.html">Click Me!</a>
```

COPY

Here, the file `login.html` is NOT SITUATED in the same computer as `hello.html`. It is situated in another computer (server) called `facebook.com`.

That is why the full link is `http://www.facebook.com/login.html`

ie. Both `login.html` and `test.html` are NOT in the same computer.

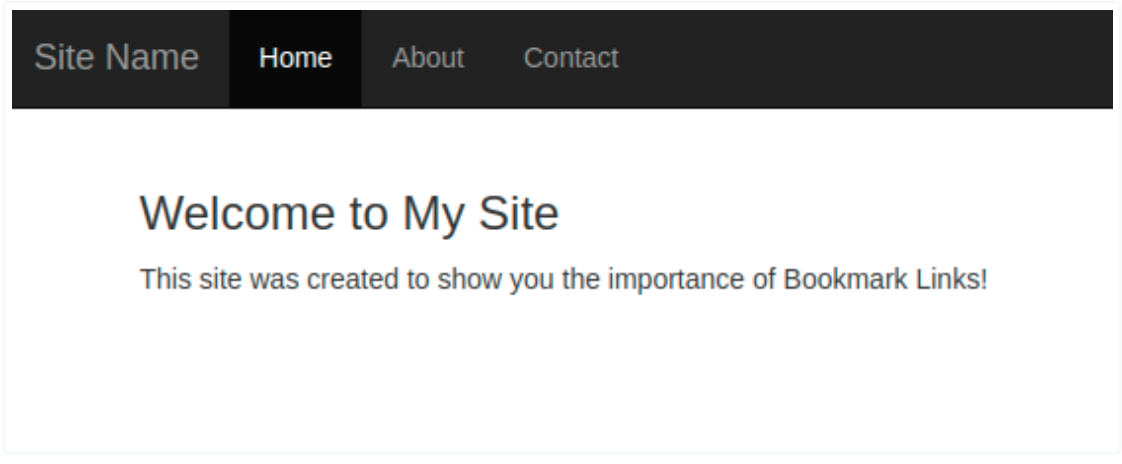
So they are called as **External Links**

Bookmark link

This bookmark link is used to go from one section of an HTML page to another section of the same HTML page

Here is an example for you to understand it well.

See the image below



Imagine, you have a long page which you need to scroll a lot to reach the bottom.

At the top of the page you have a navigation menu with 3 items

- Home
- About
- Contact

1. If you click the About, it should take you to the About section within the same page.
2. If you click the Contact, it should take you to the Contact section within the same page.
3. If you click the Home, it will take you to the Home page section

To implement this, we will use Bookmark Links.

Let me explain how.

We will give an `id` to each of these sections.

And in the `href` attribute of the `a` tag, we will give this id, so that clicking this link will take the user to the place where the id is located.

For example, for About section we will give an id. Let's call it section1.

```
<div id="section1">
<h1>About Section</h1>
<p>This is the about section</p>
</div>
```

COPY

For Contact section also we will give another id. Let's call it section2.

```
<div id="section2">
<h1>Contact Section</h1>
<p>This is the contact section</p>
</div>
```

COPY

Together, it will look like this

```
<div id="section1">
<h1>About Section</h1>
<p>This is the about section</p>
</div>
<div id="section2">
<h1>Contact Section</h1>
<p>This is the contact section</p>
</div>
```

COPY

Now, in the menu where we write our links we provide this id as the `href` attribute.

The code will look like this:-

```
<div>
<a href="home.html">Home</a>
<a href="#section1">About</a>
<a href="#section2">Contact</a>
</div>
```

COPY

This code means

1. Clicking the Home link will take the user to the home.html file.
2. Clicking the About link will take the user to the id called section1
3. Clicking the Contact link will take the user to the id called section2

In effect, when the link is clicked, the user is taken to another section within the same page. This is called as Bookmark Link.

Here's the full code.

```
<div>
<a href="home.html">Home</a>
<a href="#section1">About</a>
<a href="#section2">Contact</a>
</div>

<div id="section1">
<h1>About Section</h1>
<p>This is the about section</p>
</div>

<div id="section2">
<h1>Contact Section</h1>
<p>This is the contact section</p>
</div>
```

COPY

> It is ok if you don't understand what a **div** means. We will discuss it in the upcoming chapters.

Summary

- `a` tag is used to create links
- `href` is called as attribute and mentions where to go to when the link is clicked

```
<a href="test.html">click me!</a>
```

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- There are three types of link - internal, external, bookmark links
- Internal links point to web pages within the same server

```
<a href="test.html">click me!</a>
```

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- External links point to webpages in another server

```
<a href="http://www.gmail.com/login.html">click me!</a>
```

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- Bookmark links point to a part within the same webpage.

```
<a href="#about">click me!</a>
```

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