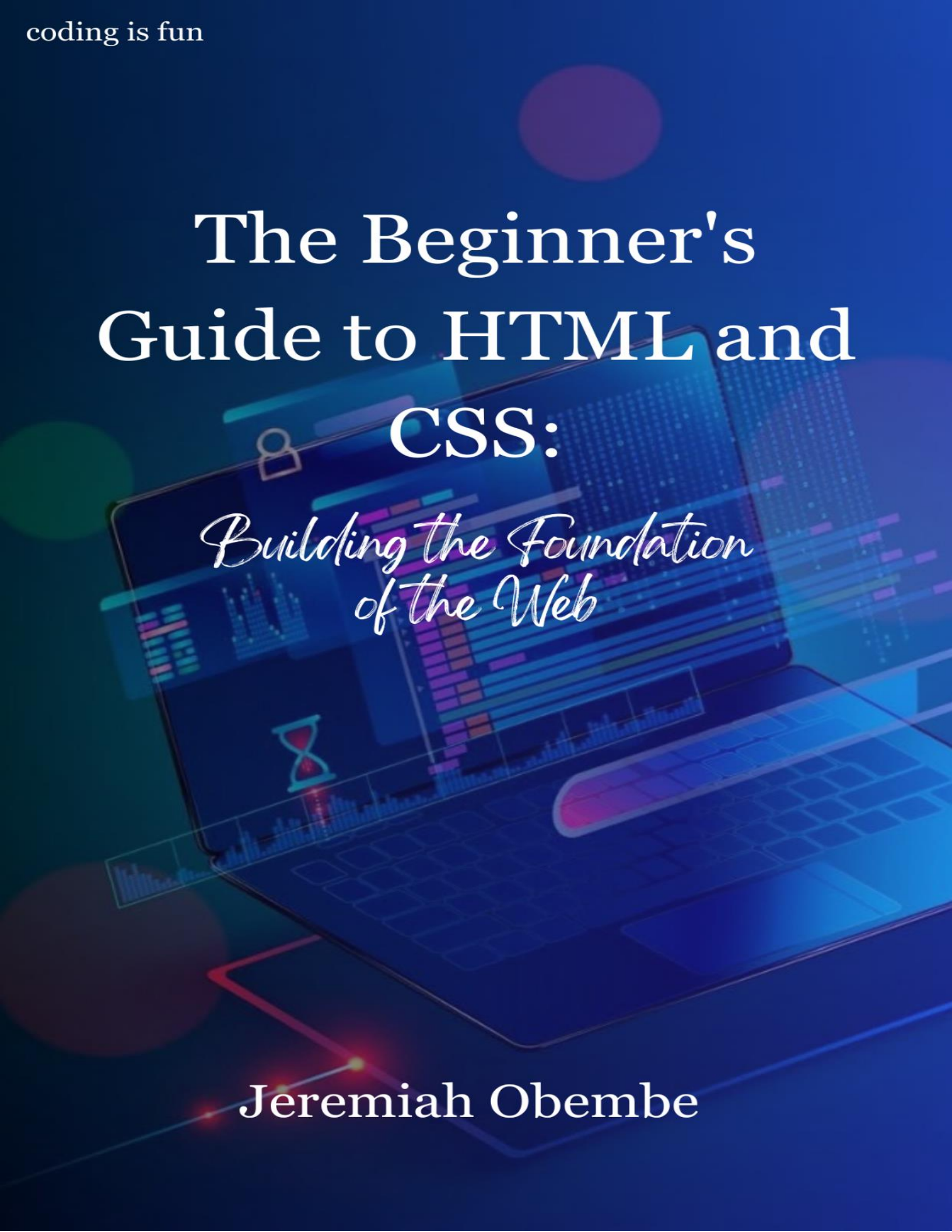
coding is fun

The Beginner's Guide to HTML and CSS:

Building the Foundation of the Web



Jeremiah Obembe

The Beginner's Guide to HTML & CSS:

Building the Foundation of the Web

Jeremiah Obembe

© Copyright 2025 – Jeremiah Obembe

No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by an information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the author.

Website: jeremiahobembe.com.ng

E-mail: jeremiahobembe7@gmail.com

Content

Introduction……6

How to Use this Book…….....8

1. Understanding the Basics of the Web…….....9

2. Introduction to HTML……14

3. Styling with CSS…….21

4. Working with CSS Layouts…….26

5. Advanced CSS Styling and Best Practices I……34

6. Responsive Web Designs and Mobile-First Approach……....39

7. CSS Typography and Web Fonts…….44

8. Advanced CSS Techniques……..48

9. CSS Frameworks and Preprocessors……52

10. Advanced CSS Styling and Best Practices II…….56

11. Final Project: Building a Complete Website……..60

12. Conclusion and Next Steps…….63

About the Book…….66

About the Author……..67

Introduction

Welcome to **"The Beginner's Guide to HTML and CSS: Building the Foundation of the Web."** If you've ever wondered how websites are built, how web pages come to life, or how you can create your own corner of the internet, then you're in the right place!

Why Learn HTML and CSS?

Every website you visit—whether it's a social media platform, an online store, or a simple blog—is built using **HTML (HyperText Markup Language) and CSS (Cascading Style Sheets)**. These two technologies form the backbone of the web:

- **HTML** provides the **structure** of a webpage, defining elements like headings, paragraphs, images, and links.
- **CSS** is what makes the web **beautiful** by controlling the layout, colors, typography, and overall visual style.

Whether you want to build personal projects, launch a career in web development, or simply understand how websites work, mastering HTML and CSS is the first step toward achieving your goals.

Who Is This Book For?

This book is designed for **absolute beginners**—no prior coding experience needed! By the end, you'll be able to:

✅ Create well-structured, accessible web pages with HTML.

✅ Style your pages beautifully with CSS.

✅ Build responsive designs that look great on any screen size.

✅ Understand key web development principles and best practices.

How This Book is Structured

We'll start with the **fundamentals**, gradually introducing more complex concepts in a **step-by-step** approach. Each chapter is packed with **clear explanations, practical code examples, hands-on exercises, and real-world applications** to help reinforce what you learn.

At the end of the book, you'll have built **multiple projects** and gained the confidence to create your own websites from scratch!

Let's Build the Web Together!

The internet is constantly evolving, and by learning HTML and CSS, you're joining a community of developers shaping the future of the web. So grab your favorite code editor, open up a browser, and let's start building!

How to Use This Book

This book is designed to be your **hands-on companion** as you learn HTML and CSS. Whether you're a complete beginner or brushing up your skills, here's how to get the most out of it:

✓ **Read it step-by-step** – Each chapter builds on the last, so follow the order to steadily grow your knowledge.

✓ **Code along** – Open your text editor and browser, and try the examples as you read. You'll learn faster by doing.

✓ **Practice with exercises** – At the end of each chapter, you'll find practical challenges to reinforce what you've learned.

✓ **Apply what you learn** – Use your new skills to build personal projects or recreate simple websites you admire.

✓ **Come back anytime** – This book is also a reference. Return to it whenever you need to revisit a concept.

Ready? Let's code your way into web development!

Chapter 1: Understanding the Basics of the Web

1.1 What is the Internet?

The internet is a global network that connects millions of computers and devices worldwide. It's a vast infrastructure that allows us to communicate, share data, and access information. Websites, which are collections of interconnected pages, are hosted on servers and are accessed through the internet by users.

Key Concepts:

- **Web Servers**: These are specialized computers that store and serve web pages. They respond to requests made by browsers.
- **Browsers**: A browser is an application (like Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Safari) that enables users to navigate the web and view web pages.
- **HTTP/HTTPS**: These are protocols that define the rules for transferring data over the internet. **HTTP** is for regular communication, while **HTTPS** ensures a secure, encrypted connection.

How it works:

1. When you type a web address like www.example.com into your browser, the browser sends a request to the server where the website is stored.

2. The server responds with the website's files, including HTML, CSS, and sometimes JavaScript.
3. The browser interprets these files and renders the webpage on your screen.

1.2 Introduction to HTML and CSS

- **HTML (Hypertext Markup Language)** is the standard language used to create and structure web content. It defines elements like headings, paragraphs, images, and links.
- **CSS (Cascading Style Sheets)** is used to style and layout the elements on a webpage. It controls colors, fonts, spacing, and positioning of elements.

In this chapter, we will focus on understanding how both HTML and CSS work together to create functional and visually appealing websites.

Example HTML Code:

```
html
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
    <title>My First Web Page</title>
```

```
</head>
<body>
    <h1>Welcome to My Website!</h1>
    <p>This is a paragraph.</p>
</body>
</html>
```

This simple HTML code creates a webpage with a heading and a paragraph.

Example CSS Code:

```
css
body {
    font-family: Arial, sans-serif;
    background-color: #f4f4f4;
}

h1 {
    color: blue;
}
```

This CSS code changes the background color of the webpage and sets the heading text to blue.

1.3 Setting Up Your Development Environment

Before you begin coding, it's important to set up a development environment where you can write and test your HTML and CSS files.

1. **Download a Code Editor**: A code editor is where you'll write your HTML and CSS code. Popular choices include:
    - **VS Code**: Free, open-source, and highly customizable.
    - **Sublime Text**: Lightweight and fast.
    - **Atom**: Open-source and developer-friendly.

    Choose one based on your preference.

2. **Use a Web Browser**: You'll need a browser like Chrome, Firefox, or Safari to view and test your web pages.
3. **Create a Project Folder**: Organizing your files will make it easier to work on your projects. Inside your folder, create the following files:
    - index.html: The main HTML file of your project.
    - styles.css: The CSS file to style your page.

1.4 Exercises

1. **Create a Simple HTML Page**
    - Open your code editor and create a new file named index.html.
    - Inside the file, add the basic structure of an HTML document: <!DOCTYPE html>, <html>, <head>, and <body>.
    - Inside the <body>, add a heading (<h1>) and a paragraph (<p>).
2. **Link a CSS File**
    - Create a new file named styles.css in the same project folder.
    - Link the CSS file to your HTML file by adding the following line inside the <head> section of your HTML:

      html

      <link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="styles.css">

3. **Apply Some Basic Styles**
    - Open the styles.css file and add some basic styles:
        - Set the background color of the page to light gray.
        - Change the color of the heading (<h1>) to green.