5-Day Coding Challenge
HTML Best Practices

There are a few things, well five actually, that you should keep in mind to help minimize mistakes and make it easy to spot and rectify when you do make the odd blunder!

- Don't underestimate the power of the indent!
- Watch that syntax
- Use and love online resources
- Validate your code
- Comment your code

Let's dig a little deeper into each best practice

Don't underestimate the power of the indent!

Seriously, indentations make your code easier to read and therefore it's going to be much easier to spot any mistakes you might make.

Take a look and see which is easier to read:

```
<div class="into"><img src="https://www.myfirstimage.com/first-image.png" /><h1>Hello World!</h1><p>This is my awesome website that I created using my new HTML skills</p></div>
```

```
<div class="into">
    <img src="https://www.myfirstimage.com/first-image.png" />
        <h1>Hello World!</h1>
            <p>This is my awesome website that I created using my new HTML skills </p>
</div>
```

Watch your syntax

HTML is a language, just like German or Spanish. But, it's a little more sensitive. If you use the wrong tense in Spanish, you'll more than likely get your message across. However, computers only understand what they're programmed to. If you start to put quotation marks in the wrong place or accidentally close a tag where you wanted to open one, things will start to look a little funky and won't behave as you expect them to. If your page is looking a little strange, check your code for:

- The spelling of the opening and closing tags. Have you missed an 'o' in the <footer> tag?
- Are your tags opening (<p>) and closing (</p>) in the right places?
- Have you used an apostrophe instead of quotation marks?
- When you're furiously typing away, it's easy to make these mistakes, just make sure you spot and correct them!

Use and LOVE online resources

Even the most professional of web developers don't memorize all the HTML tags under the sun. There just isn't enough room in your brain! When you're just starting out, don't be afraid to check online resources if you're not sure what tag you should be using, we all do it. If your site is looking a little funky and you can't figure out why – Google it! Online resources are there to be utilized!

Validate your code

You've checked your code over for mistakes and Googled to try and figure out why your page isn't behaving itself but you still can't figure out why. Bookmark this handy little code validator! This resource is free to use and will highlight all the errors in an HTML file to save you searching for them manually. Your time is far too valuable! Make sure you use <!DOCTYPE html>, <html>, <head> and <body> tags otherwise the validator will send back errors for those too.

Comment your code

Make comments your best friend! Comments will tell you, and anyone else looking at your code, exactly what's going on. This is a good habit to get into for when you start writing longer documents or working with a team.

A single line comment looks like this.
<!-- I'm a comment! --->

And a multiple line comment looks like this.
<!--
This comment goes on to
Two lines
--->

Remember!

These HTML best practices will help minimize the number of mistakes you make and also help you to spot and correct the mistakes you do make in your code.

Don't let mistakes put you off coding. Even the most seasoned professionals make mistakes, you're only human! You're well on your way to becoming a confident coder and I cannot wait to see what you create!