



COACH

Introduction

to

HTML

Lesson: Introduction to HTML - Building the Web's Skeleton

1. Objectives:

- Understand what HTML stands for and its primary purpose.
- Identify the basic structure of an HTML document (`<!DOCTYPE>`, `<html>`, `<head>`, `<body>`).
- Recognize and use fundamental HTML tags for headings (`<h1>`-`<h6>`), paragraphs (`<p>`), links (`<a>`), and images (``).
- Understand the concept of HTML elements (opening tag, content, closing tag).
- Understand the concept of attributes (like **href** for links or **src** for images).
- Create a very simple HTML file and view it in a web browser.

2. Target Audience:

- Absolute beginners with no prior web development or coding experience.

3. Estimated Duration:

- 45 - 60 minutes

4. Materials Needed:

- A computer (Windows, Mac, or Linux).
- A simple text editor (like Notepad on Windows, TextEdit on Mac, or more advanced editors like VS Code, Sublime Text, Atom - but Notepad/TextEdit is enough to start).
- A web browser (like Chrome, Firefox, Edge, Safari).

5. Lesson Content & Procedure:

Part A: What is HTML? (5-10 minutes)

- **Analogy:** Think of a webpage like a human body. HTML is the **skeleton**. It provides the structure and defines the different parts (head, arms, legs, etc.). Other technologies like CSS (styling - the clothes/skin) and JavaScript (interactivity - the muscles/actions) build upon this structure, but HTML comes first.
- **Definition:** HTML stands for **HyperText Markup Language**.
 - **HyperText:** Means text that contains links to other texts (or resources). This is the foundation of how we navigate the web!
 - **Markup Language:** Means it uses special markers called **tags** to describe the *structure* and *content* of a document, telling the browser how to display things (like "this is a heading," "this is a paragraph," "this is an image").
- **Key Point:** HTML is *not* a programming language. It doesn't perform complex logic; it structures content.

Part B: The Basic Structure (10 minutes)

Every HTML document follows a basic template. Let's look at the essential parts:

HTML

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

- **Explanation:**
 - **<!DOCTYPE html>**: This declaration tells the browser which version of HTML is being used (in this case, HTML5, the modern standard). It should always be the very first line.
 - **<html> ... </html>**: This is the **root element**. Everything else in the document goes inside these tags.
 - **<head> ... </head>**: This section contains meta-information *about* the HTML document. This information isn't displayed directly on the page itself (except for the title). Examples include:
 - **<title> ... </title>**: Defines the title that appears in the browser tab or window title bar.
 - Links to CSS stylesheets or JavaScript files (we won't cover these today).
 - **<body> ... </body>**: This section contains the **actual content** that will be visible to the user on the webpage – text, images, links, tables, etc.

Part C: HTML Elements and Tags (15 minutes)

- HTML uses **tags** to mark up content. Most tags come in pairs:

An **opening tag**: **<tagname>**

The **content**: Text or other HTML elements.

A **closing tag**: **</tagname>** (Note the forward slash /)

- The entire structure (**<tagname>Content</tagname>**) is called an **HTML element**.

- **Common Tags for Content:**

Headings: Used for titles and subtitles. They range from **<h1>** (most important/largest) to **<h6>** (least important/smallest).

HTML

```
<h1>This is a Main Heading</h1>
<h2>This is a Subheading</h2>
```

- **Paragraphs:** Used for blocks of text.

HTML

```
<p>This is a paragraph of text. It can contain multiple sentences.</p>
<p>This is another paragraph.</p>
```

- **Links (Anchors):** Used to create hyperlinks to other pages or resources. Uses the **<a>** tag and requires an **attribute**.

HTML

```
<a href="https://www.google.com">Click here to visit Google</a>
```

- **Images:** Used to embed images. Uses the **** tag. This is an **empty tag** (doesn't have a closing tag) and requires attributes.

HTML

```

```

Part D: Attributes (5 minutes)

- Attributes provide **additional information** about an HTML element.
- They are always included in the **opening tag**.
- They usually come in name/value pairs: **name="value"**.

- **Examples we saw:**

- In **<a>**: The **href** attribute specifies the URL (Hypertext Reference) the link points to.
- In ****:
 - The **src** attribute specifies the URL (Source) of the image file.
 - The **alt** attribute provides alternative text for the image. This is crucial for accessibility (screen readers for visually impaired users) and if the image fails to load.

6. Activity: Create Your First Web Page! (10-15 minutes)

- a. Open your text editor (Notepad, TextEdit, etc.).
- b. Type (or copy/paste) the basic HTML structure:

HTML

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
  <title>My Awesome Page</title>
</head>
<body>

</body>
</html>
```

- c. Inside the **<body>** tags, add some content:

- Add a main heading: **<h1>Welcome to My Page!</h1>**
- Add a paragraph: **<p>This is my very first webpage. I learned how to make it today!</p>**
- Add a link: **Learn something on Wikipedia**
- Add an image (you can use a link to an online image for now): **** (This placeholder service is handy for testing).

Your complete **<body>** might look like this:

HTML

<body>

<h1>Welcome to My Page!</h1>

<p>This is my very first webpage. I learned how to make it today!</p>

Learn something on Wikipedia

**
 **

</body>

d. Save the file:

- Go to **File > Save As...**
- Choose a location (like your Desktop).
- **Crucially:** Name the file with an **.html** extension (e.g., **mypage.html**).
- Make sure the "Save as type" or "Format" is set to "All Files" or "Plain Text" if necessary, to avoid saving it as **.txt**.

e. Open the file in your web browser:

- Find the saved **mypage.html** file on your computer.
- Double-click it, or right-click and choose "Open With" your preferred browser.
- You should see your heading, paragraph, link, and image displayed!

7. Review & Recap (5 minutes)

- What does HTML stand for? (HyperText Markup Language)
- What is its main purpose? (To structure web content)
- What are the 4 essential parts of the basic HTML structure? (**<!DOCTYPE html>**, **<html>**, **<head>**, **<body>**)
- What do tags do? (Mark up content, e.g., **<p>** for paragraph)
- What are attributes? (Provide extra info in the opening tag, e.g., **href** in **<a>**)
- What section holds the visible content? (**<body>**)
- What section holds meta-info like the title? (**<head>**)

8. Next Steps & Further Learning:

- Explore more HTML tags (lists ****, ****, ****; tables **<table>**, **<tr>**, **<td>**; formatting ****, ****, etc.).
- Learn about CSS (Cascading Style Sheets) to add colors, layouts, and styles to your HTML structure.
- Explore online resources like:
 - MDN Web Docs (Mozilla Developer Network) - Excellent reference
 - freeCodeCamp - Interactive tutorials
 - W3Schools - Tutorials and examples