

Introduction

Welcome to my beginner's HTML for Starters e-book. I had to rush this material over night when I was informed that I had to give a group of students live HTML lessons the next morning. I intended to give it to them as a souvenir, but the class never held for some reasons I've forgotten (that was over 2 years ago)!

With this e-book, HTML for Starters, I will teach you the very basics of **HyperText Markup Language** (HTML), the language used to build Webpages and websites.

This material being a summary, contains only the basics you need to build a regular webpage; so I will not teach "website" design, but "webpage" design, okay? This is just an introduction to HTML. So if you want to take HTML in a rush, you can read this material. Even better, is my HTML Basics tutorial which is for intermediate-level HTML learners, and you can get it free online at <http://www.htmlonline.tk/tutorials/html/>

After reading and practicing with the contents of this book, you will have understood the very basics of HTML and Webpage design.

Happy reading!

Kheme

About Me

My name is Okiemute Omuta, but I'm very well known as Kheme. I am a Nigerian freelance website designer and developer specialized in PHP & MySQL. I also have a good understanding of JavaScript, DHTML and CSS. I also have a considerable applicable knowledge of Flash, Action Scripts, AJAX, C/C++ and Oracle SQL.

I have gathered experience in designing websites commercially using PHP, MySQL, (X)HTML, CSS, JavaScript and DHTML since 2003. Hence, I am able to develop both static and dynamic websites, from small scale websites through medium scale to medium-large scale websites.

Besides developing websites, I run a free website design tutorials website where I have website design related lessons. The name of the website is HTML Online (www.htmlonline.tk); I also have a few free e-books on that website, such as this one you're reading right now.

If you noticed any spelling or typographical errors, or you just like my tutorials, or you have problems or questions to ask, feel free to email me at Kheme@htmlonline.tk or visit my website at www.khemeonline.tk. Also, I consider it consolation for my efforts when my readers e-mail in to say a thing or two about my e-books, or simply just to say "Thanks!" :)

Feel free to share this e-book with you friends and those you feel could benefit from it.

Thanks for downloading one of my e-books.

Kheme

Table of Content

- Introduction to HTML
- HTML Webpage Template
- Text and Webpages
- Images and Webpages
- Tables and Webpages
- Sound and Webpages
- Introduction to CSS
- Introduction to JavaScript

Introduction to HTML

What it means

HTML means **H**yper**T**ext **M**arkup **L**anguage and it is the language used to build webpages and websites. When HTML is written and saved appropriately, it can be viewed with a web browser, a software that understands HTML.

What it can do

HTML is used to tell the browser exactly how to display information on webpages; whether to make a word or phrase bold or underlined, or make it red and very big, play a sound while viewing the page, etc.

With HTML, you can accomplish much when it comes to building webpages, but with the addition of other languages or scripts, such as CSS, JavaScript, PHP, ASP, etc., HTML or the resulting webpage can become even more powerful!

Note: CSS, JavaScript, PHP and ASP will not be treated in this material!

What you'll need

To begin learning HTML, you'll need two (2) things: a plain-text editor and a web browser. You can use Microsoft Window's Notepad, but I would prefer you use my plain-text editor, ProTx™, which I designed to aid HTML learners. Any web browser will work just fine, but I would prefer you use Mozilla Firefox.

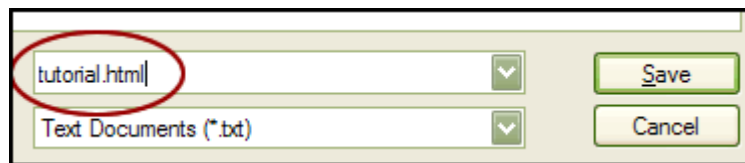
Download ProTx™ free at <http://www.htmlonline.tk/tools/protx.php>

Download Mozilla Firefox free at <http://www.mozilla.org/>

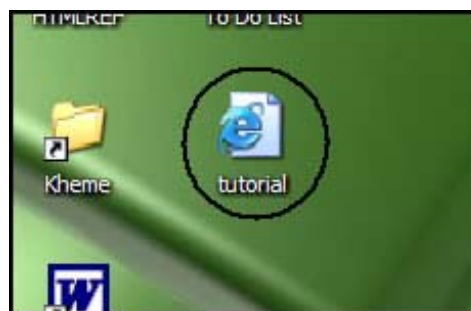
HTML Webpage Template

Before we continue with HTML proper, you have to do the following:

- Open Notepad or ProTx™ or any other plain-text editor you have
- Using the “Save” command provided with your editor, save the current blank page to your “Desktop” with the name “tutorial.html”

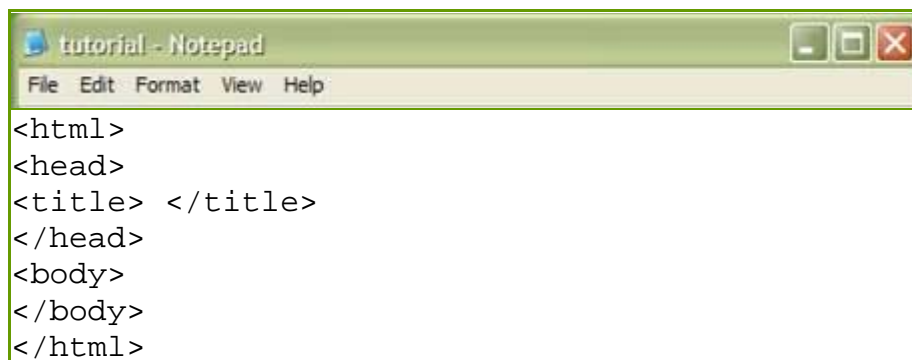


- Go to your desktop and double click on “**tutorial**” page to open your blank HTML file in your default internet browser.



- Return to the blank editor let's begin with the webpage template.

A good start in HTML is to begin with this template; type the following into your blank editor:



These lines you can see are called "HTML Tags" or "HTML elements" and these tags form the basic building blocks (units) of HTML and they make up the syntaxes of HTML.

So, from what you can see, and may have already typed into your editor, all HTML tags or elements are written in this format: `<tagname>`.

Note: Please note that spaces are NEVER used in naming HTML tags!

Other examples of HTML tags are: ``, `
`, `<meta>`, `<link>`, etc.

Also note that these tags have a similar tag, but with a slash before the name (e.g. `</title>`); these second tags are called "closing tags" or "ending tags", while the former (e.g. `<title>`) is called the "opening tag" or "starting tag".

For this tutorial, I'll indicate HTML tag names in bold, italicized letters, e.g. the ***table*** tag tells the browser to ...

Then I'd indicate tag attribute names in normal, italicized letter e.g. the *align* attribute of the ***table*** tag is used to align ..., understand?

The first line in our template above is the ***html*** tag. The ***html*** tag tells the web browser that it is viewing a HTML document and that it should treat it as HTML. The next tag is the ***head*** tag. Usually, tags and other content placed within this tag are not visible to those viewing the webpage, but to the web browser software and internet search engines.

I will cover only the relevant tag (in this case `<title>`) placed within the ***head*** tag because this material is only a summary!

Tag Nesting

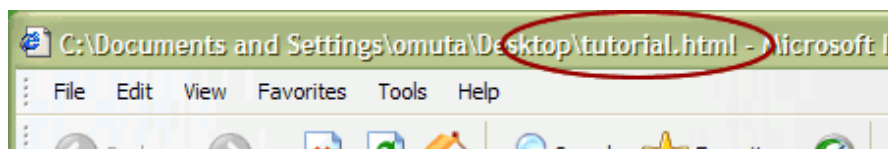
One thing I want to point out here is this; if you study the HTML in the webpage template, you'd notice that I placed both the opening and closing ***title*** tags within the ***head*** tag. That is called "tag nesting"; the ***title*** tag was nested within the ***head*** tag.

A guide for nesting HTML tags is this: the first tag you open must be closed last; the second tag you open must be closed first, before the closing the first open tag, get it? So if I open the ***html*** tag first, then the ***head*** tag next, then the ***title*** tag; I must close the ***title*** tag first, then close the ***head*** tag next and finally close the ***html*** tag last, get it? If you still don't understand, then study the template again properly!

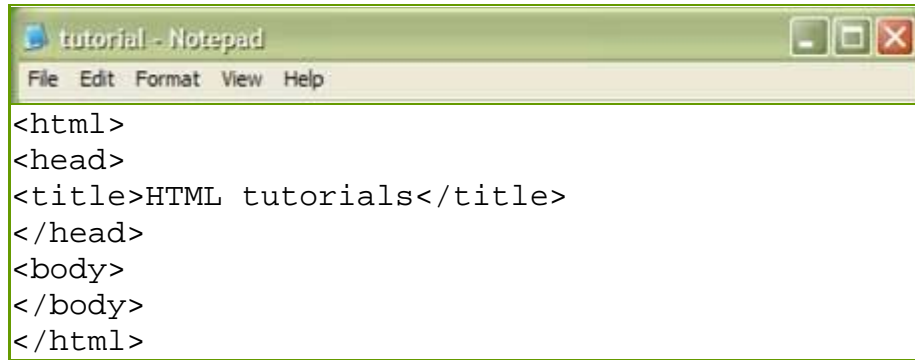
The next tag here is the ***title*** tag. The ***title*** tag controls what's displayed on the title bar of the web browser software. If you have not saved your HTML in your editor, please do so now and then return to the open webpage on your web browser and press the F5 button to refresh the page to see the changes you have made.

Note: For ProTx™ users simply save your work and press ALT+Z to automatically preview changes made in your default web browser.

After refreshing, you should still see a blank page because we have no real content yet. But after refreshing your page, look at your internet explorer title bar and you should see the location of your HTML file on your desktop.



Now place some text within the ***title*** tag, e.g. "HTML tutorials", as I have below:

A screenshot of a Notepad window with the title bar 'tutorial - Notepad'. The menu bar includes 'File', 'Edit', 'Format', 'View', and 'Help'. The text area contains the following HTML code:

```
<html>
<head>
<title>HTML tutorials</title>
</head>
<body>
</body>
</html>
```

Save this and go back to web browser and refresh (F5) to see the changes. Look at the title bar again and what do you see? Was that easy?

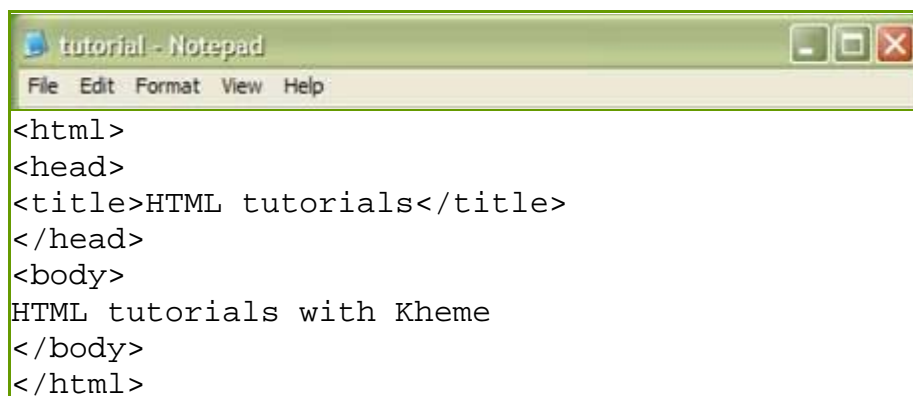
The next tag in our template is the "body" tag. For beginners, everything you see on a webpage is placed within the **body** tag; your text, images, videos, animations, etc.

Now we've covered the basic HTML webpage template, let's move on to some real content for our webpage.

Text and Webpages

Entering text into a Webpage is quite easy; in fact, it is as easy as just typing it in! Now remember what I told you earlier: any thing you want visible on a webpage must be placed or nested within the **body** tag.

Let's put in something; type "HTML tutorials with Kheme" within the body tag:



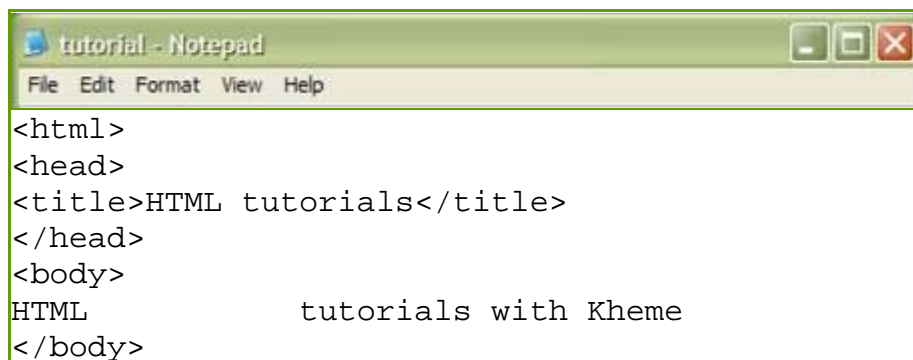
```
<html>
<head>
<title>HTML tutorials</title>
</head>
<body>
HTML tutorials with Kheme
</body>
</html>
```

Save this and refresh your browser, what do you see? That was pretty easy, right?

You should know

At this point, you should know about some peculiarities about HTML. We're going to try some experiments to realize this.

Instead of a single space between "HTML" and "tutorials with Kheme", try typing more space, like 5 to 10 spaces.



```
<html>
<head>
<title>HTML tutorials</title>
</head>
<body>
HTML          tutorials with Kheme
</body>
```

</html>

Refresh your browser to preview; notice any difference? No? That's right, there is NO difference! In HTML, multiple "white spaces" are disregarded and more that one consecutive white space is interpreted as a single white space. But there's a solution, just in case you're already wondering how to use multiple spaces on your pages. For multiple spacing in HTML, there a special character to use: ` `. It is called "no break space".


Let's try this; replace each of the 5 or 10 white spaces you have between "HTML" and "tutorials with Kheme" with Save it and then preview it; do you see any difference?

Other special characters to try out are: `•` `©` `™` `Ũ`

[illegible]

Paragraphs

For paragraphs in HTML, we use the ***paragraph*** tag which is otherwise called the “***p***” tag (<p>). All text, etc. placed within the <p> </p> tags will give a paragraph. Try the lines below, you should see two paragraphs:

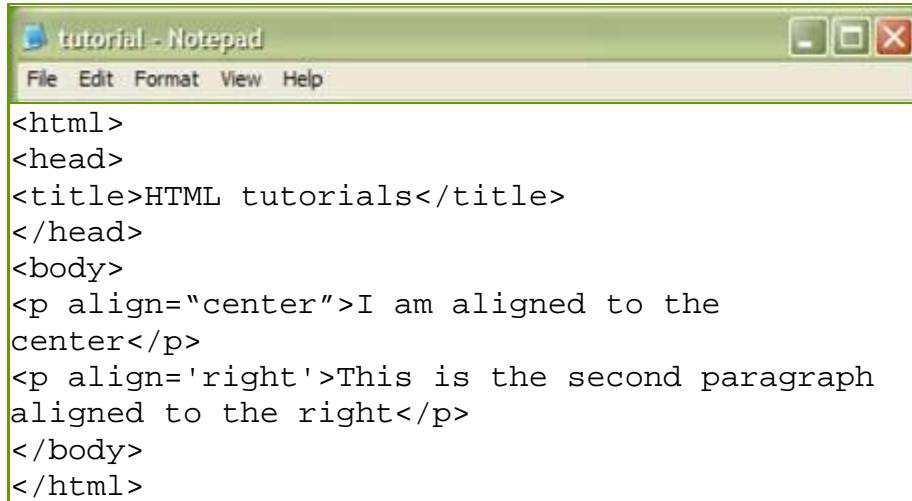


The screenshot shows a Notepad window with the title bar 'tutorial - Notepad'. The menu bar includes 'File', 'Edit', 'Format', 'View', and 'Help'. The text area contains the following HTML code:

```
<html>
<head>
<title>HTML tutorials</title>
</head>
<body>
<p>This is paragraph 1</p>
<p>This is the second paragraph</p>
```

```
</body>  
</html>
```

Now, to align a paragraph to the center or to the right, we use what's called "tag attributes". An attribute of a HTML tag defines the properties or characteristics of that tag. Different tags have different attributes. Right now, we're concerned with the *align* attribute of the **paragraph** tag.



```
File Edit Format View Help  
<html>  
<head>  
<title>HTML tutorials</title>  
</head>  
<body>  
<p align="center">I am aligned to the  
center</p>  
<p align='right'>This is the second paragraph  
aligned to the right</p>  
</body>  
</html>
```

Note: there must be at least one (1) white space between the tag name and the attribute name. Attribute values must be placed within single or double quotation marks. Now save and preview.

Text Formatting

Now let us look at formatting text, like giving it color, underlining, etc. I will rush you through some tags which are useful to these effects:

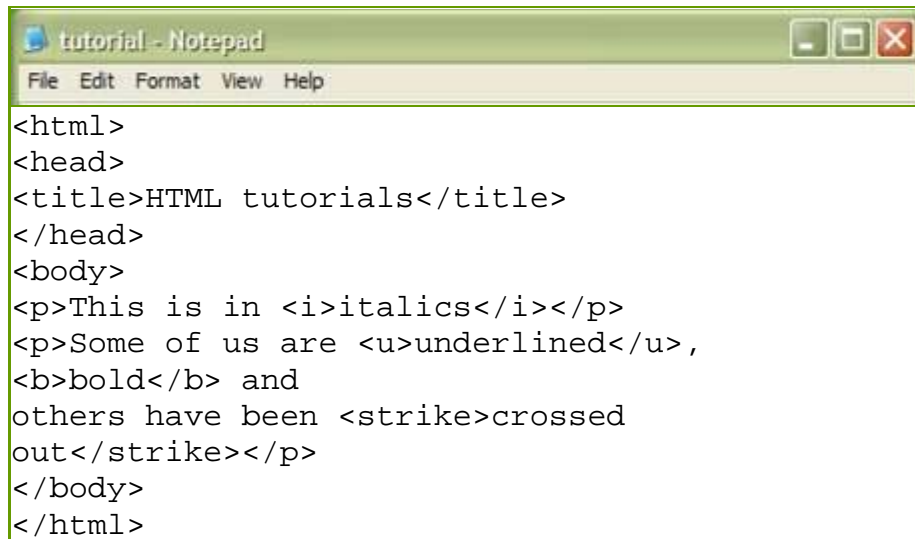
Bold : `...` - renders text bold

Italics: `<i>...</i>` - italicizes text

Underline: `<u>...</u>` - underlines text

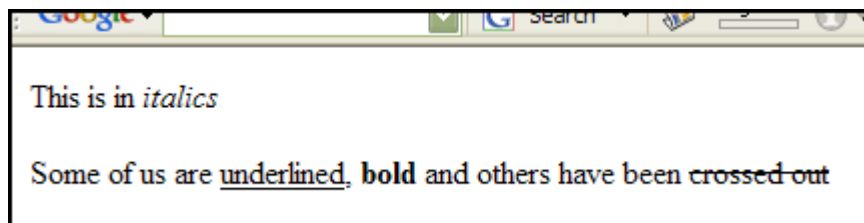
Strike through: `<strike>...</strike>` - strikes through text

Now let's play with these tags!



```
<html>
<head>
<title>HTML tutorials</title>
</head>
<body>
<p>This is in <i>italics</i></p>
<p>Some of us are <u>underlined</u>,
<b>bold</b> and
others have been <strike>crossed
out</strike></p>
</body>
</html>
```

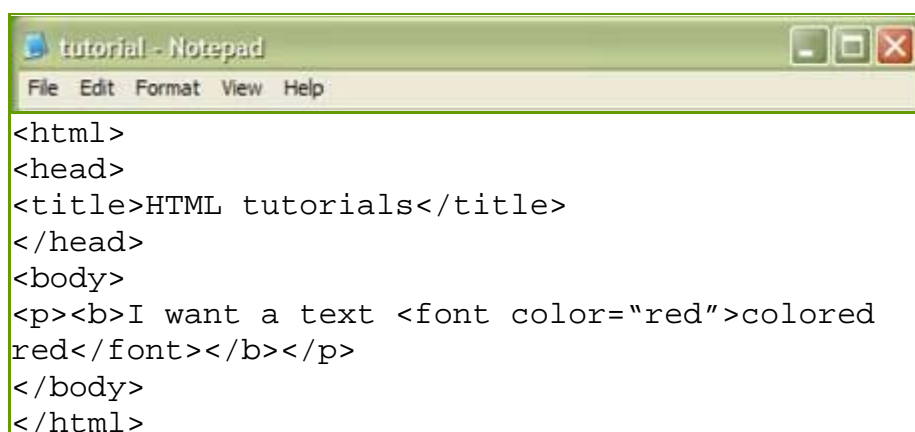
Save and preview; what did you get? Here's what I got:



You can combine these tags in any way you wish, as long as you nest them properly, okay?

Text Color

To color text, we use the **font** tag and the *color* attribute of the **font** tag. For this attribute, our values will be the name of whatever color you want to use; let us do this together.

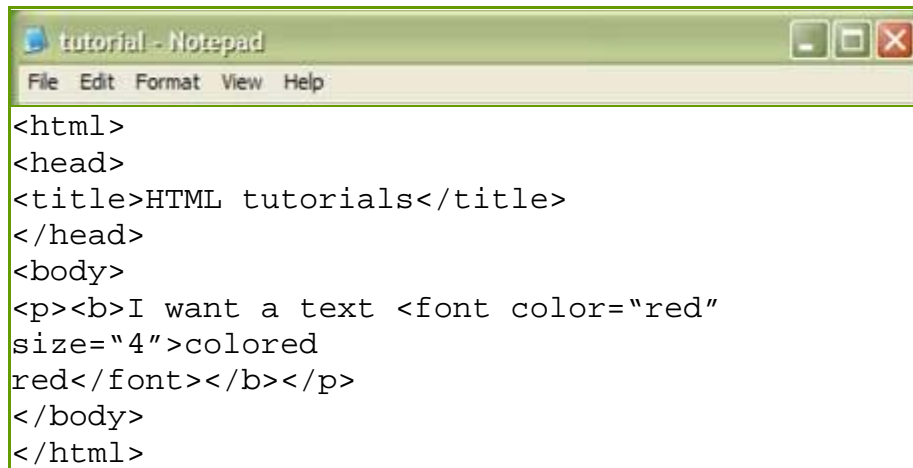


```
<html>
<head>
<title>HTML tutorials</title>
</head>
<body>
<p><b>I want a text <font color="red">colored
red</font></b></p>
</body>
</html>
```

Notice how I nested my tags properly. Type this, save it and preview it, what did you get?

Text Size

To specify a different size for your text, you should use the *size* attribute of the **font** tag. Follow my example:



```
<html>
<head>
<title>HTML tutorials</title>
</head>
<body>
<p><b>I want a text <font color="red"
size="4">colored
red</font></b></p>
</body>
</html>
```

The text sizes that can be used here are from 1 to 7; try them!

Images and Webpages

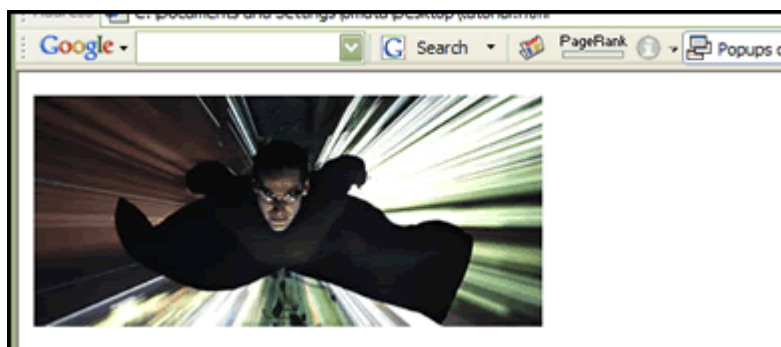
Placing images on a Webpage is done with the *image* tag (), but the tag alone does not give you the image; you will have to use the tag and the *src* (source) attribute. You will also use the *align* attribute to align pictures later. Please note that with the tag, it is forbidden to place a closing tag; in other words, there is no closing tag for the tag. Please don't forget!

Before we go on, look for any image/picture in your computer and place a copy on your desktop. You can name the picture anything you like, but make sure there are not spaces in the name of the image! For this tutorial, you should rename your picture to "pic1". After you've done that, try these lines:

```
tutorial - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
<html>
<head>
<title>HTML tutorials</title>
</head>
<body>

</body>
</html>
```

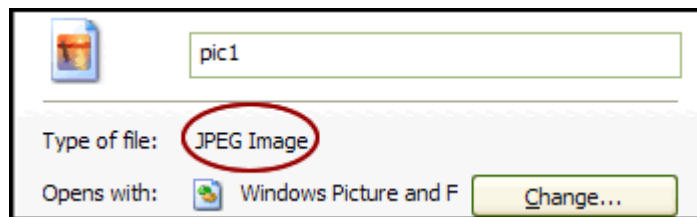
Here's what I got with my picture:



If you can't see your picture, compare your HTML with what I have on the previous page; study my HTML the and check the following:

- Make sure the tag was not wrongly typed
e.g. `<ima src="your_picture_name">`
- Make sure you spelled the name of your picture correctly
- Make sure that the name of your picture is in quotation marks
- Make sure you added the file extension name to the name of your picture e.g. `src="pic1.jpg"` means that, 'pic1' = file name, '.jpg' = extension name

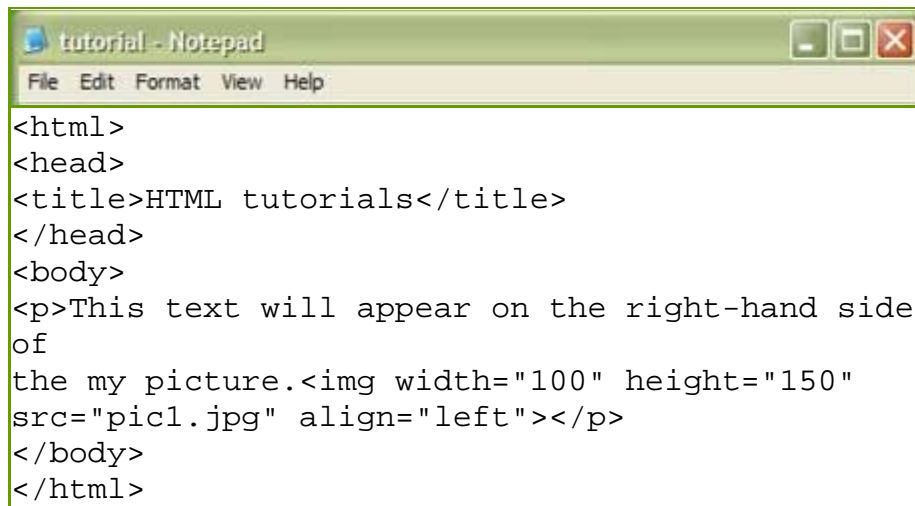
Note: To find out the file extension name of your picture, click once on the picture on your desktop then press ATL+ENTER (for Windows users). Now look at the Properties box and look for "Type of file".



If the "Type of file" is JPEG Image, your file name plus extension will be "pic1.jpg" or else if the "Type of file" is:

- **GIF Images:** name + extension = pic1.gif
- **Bitmap Image:** name + extension pic1.bmp

For image alignment with text, you should use the *align* attribute of the `` tag. Try these lines:

A screenshot of a Notepad window titled "tutorial - Notepad". The window has a menu bar with "File", "Edit", "Format", "View", and "Help". The text area contains the following HTML code:

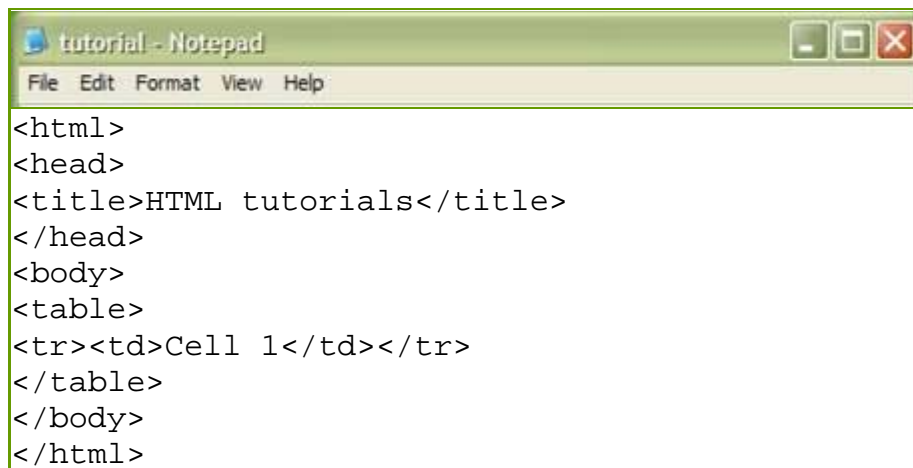
```
<html>
<head>
<title>HTML tutorials</title>
</head>
<body>
<p>This text will appear on the right-hand side
of
the my picture.</p>
</body>
</html>
```

As you must have observed, I have used two other attributes: *width* and *height*. These attributes control the width and height of the picture respectively. You can also use the *border* attribute to add a border around the images. Values for the *border* attribute are numbers; 1 for a thin border and larger numbers (like 3) for thicker borders.

Tables and Webpages

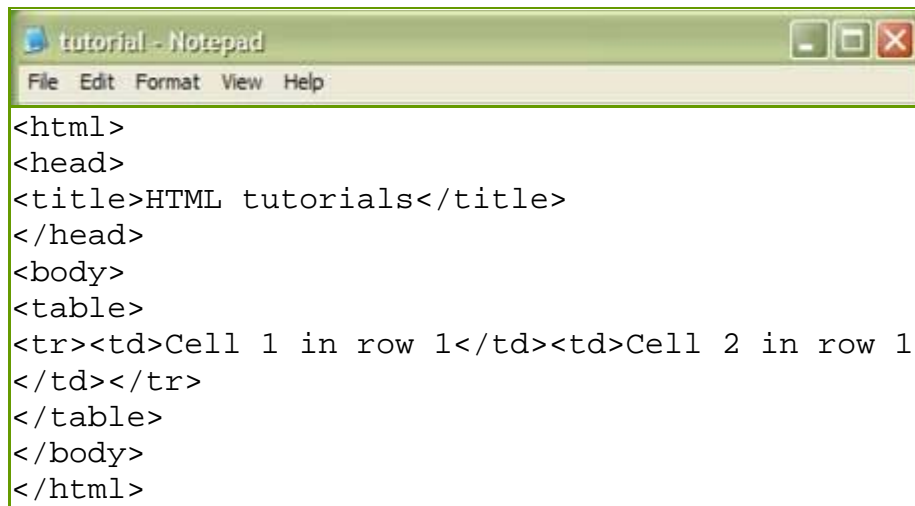
Using tables on Webpages could be quite tricky and confusing with HTML, but like the old saying goes, "practice makes perfect"!

For HTML tables, we will use three (3) tags: **table** (<table> </table>), **table row** (<tr> </tr>), **table data** (<td> </td>). The <table> tag tells the browser to expect a table next; but a **table** tag alone (<table> </table>) will never give you a table! Never forget this: a table cannot exist without a cell! So, for a table with once cell, you'll use the following lines (no worries, try it, I'll explain later):



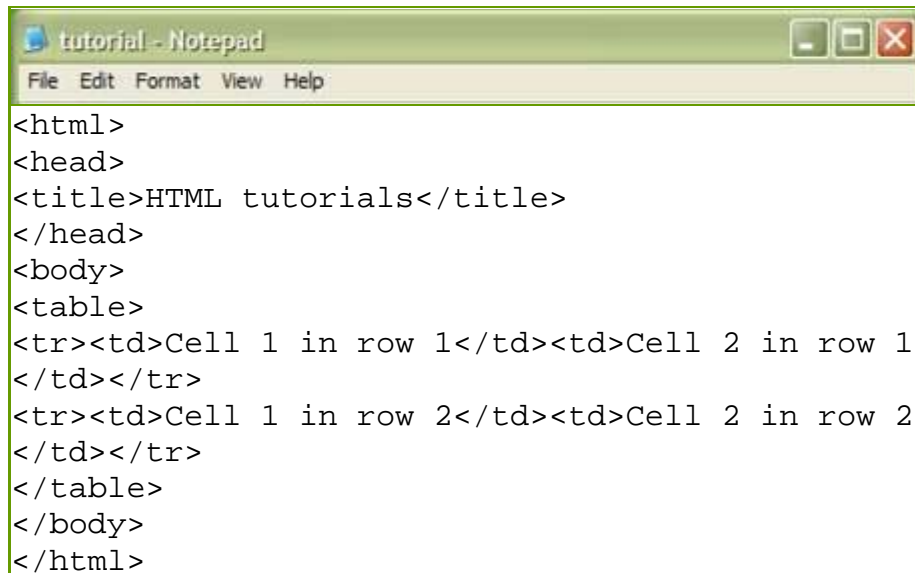
```
<html>
<head>
<title>HTML tutorials</title>
</head>
<body>
<table>
<tr><td>Cell 1</td></tr>
</table>
</body>
</html>
```

The <tr> indicates the start of a **table row**, while the <td> indicates a table cell, on the first row. Understand? So if you want two (2) cells or columns on the same row, merely nest another <td> </td> tag within the first <tr> </tr> tag.



```
<html>
<head>
<title>HTML tutorials</title>
</head>
<body>
<table>
<tr><td>Cell 1 in row 1</td><td>Cell 2 in row 1
</td></tr>
</table>
</body>
</html>
```

Next, to add more rows, nest more `<tr>` tags within the `<table>` tag:



```
<html>
<head>
<title>HTML tutorials</title>
</head>
<body>
<table>
<tr><td>Cell 1 in row 1</td><td>Cell 2 in row 1
</td></tr>
<tr><td>Cell 1 in row 2</td><td>Cell 2 in row 2
</td></tr>
</table>
</body>
</html>
```

Sounds and Webpages

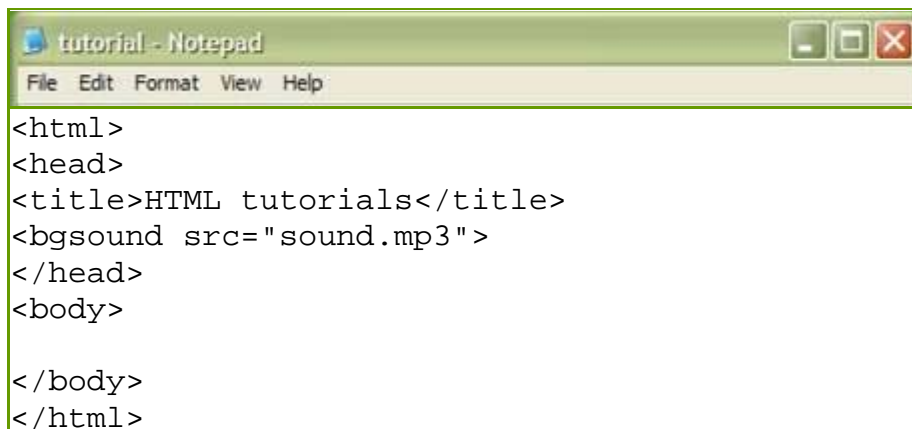
Playing sounds and songs on webpages is quite easy; it's similar to placing an image on a web page, only this time, we will use another tag. The **bgsound** tag is used to place songs playing at the background of webpages. Can you guess what attribute we'll use to make this happen? The *src* attribute!

Note: Please take note right now, that the **bgsound** tag should only be placed within the **head** tag!

Before you start testing your HTML, let's prepare the song we want to play first, so do the following:

- Locate the song you like and make a copy of it on your desktop (for easy access to the file)
- Rename the song like you did for your image above
- Make sure that the file name and extension are known
- Make sure that your HTML file and the song (as well as the picture and other files) are located in the same folder!

Now try this, putting the name of your song instead of mine in the following lines:



```
<html>
<head>
<title>HTML tutorials</title>
<bgsound src="sound.mp3">
</head>
<body>

</body>
</html>
```

Also note that your file extension may be different from mine; if you do not know how to find your file extension, refer to my instructions for doing so on "Images and Webpages" lesson.

Looping

If you want your sound/song to loop over and over again, use the *loop* attribute of the **bgsound** tag. Set the value to the number of times you want it to loop, e.g.:

- loop="2" - to loop twice and stop
- loop="1" - to play only once and stop
- loop="0" - to loop indefinitely

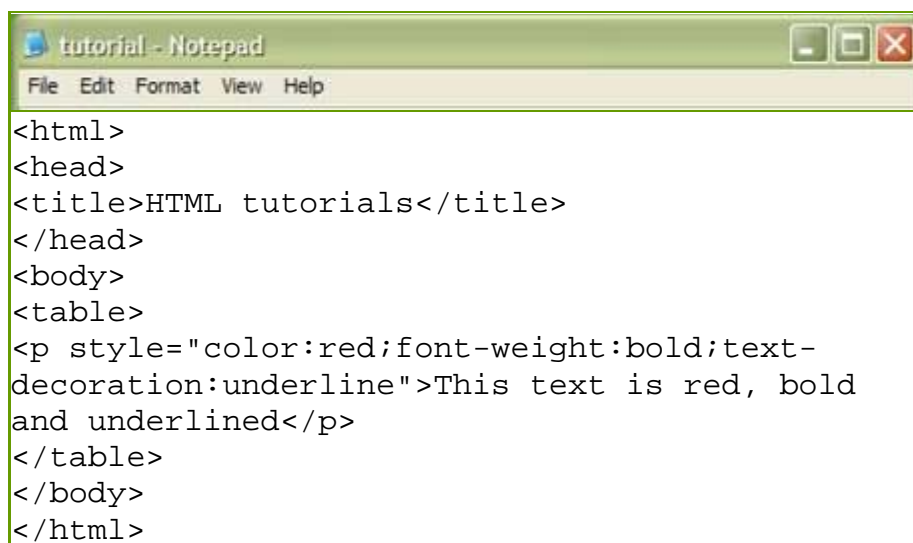
Introduction to CSS

Cascading Style Sheets or CSS are used in formatting HTML, such as font color, font size, text alignment, image border, filter effects (like alpha, drop shadow, etc.), scrollbar color, table height and width, font face, etc.

There are three (3) ways to use CSS on webpages: you can use it inline with your HTML tags, with the use of the ***style*** tag or separately in a separate CSS file.

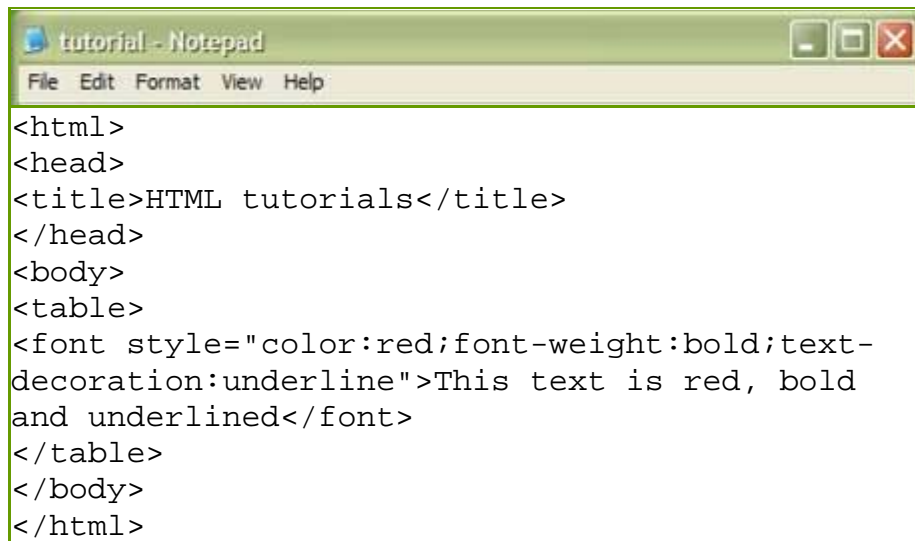
To use CSS inline with your HTML, you will have to use the *style* attribute of whatever tag you want to affect.

With the lines below, I will make the text red, bold and underlined using inline CSS.



```
<html>
<head>
<title>HTML tutorials</title>
</head>
<body>
<table>
<p style="color:red;font-weight:bold;text-
decoration:underline">This text is red, bold
and underlined</p>
</table>
</body>
</html>
```

Inline CSS also works for other tags, such as `<td>`, `<div>`, etc.



```
<html>
<head>
<title>HTML tutorials</title>
</head>
<body>
<table>
<font style="color:red;font-weight:bold;text-
decoration:underline">This text is red, bold
and underlined</font>
</table>
</body>
</html>
```

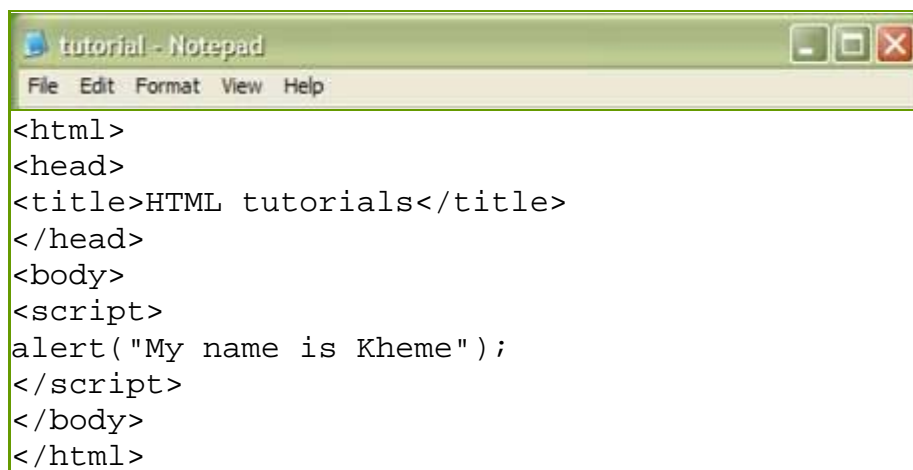
Try the following styles for whatever tag you like:

- `style="font-family:tahoma"` – Sets font face, e.g. comic sans
- `style="cursor:hand"` – When the cursor is held over, a hand appears, instead of the regular cursor.

Introduction to JavaScript

JavaScript is a client-side scripting or programming language. Client-side means it only operates on the side of the web browser viewing the webpage. JavaScript on webpages make them a little more dynamic and interactive in nature. With JavaScript, you can perform logical and mathematical calculations, create little short quizzes and games, etc.

On webpages, JavaScript is placed within `<script>` `</script>` tags. Below is an example you can try.



```
<html>
<head>
<title>HTML tutorials</title>
</head>
<body>
<script>
alert("My name is Kheme");
</script>
</body>
</html>
```

This JavaScript tells the browser to display "My name is Kheme" in a box (`alert()`). Here, "`alert()`" is a built-in JavaScript function, other are:

- `prompt()` – Prompts the user for an input,
e.g. `prompt("A or B?", "Type your answer here")`
- `open()` – opens a file in a new window e.g. `open("pic1.jpg")`
- `close()` – closes the Webpage being viewed
- `print()` – prints the Webpage being viewed

This is just an introduction to JavaScript, letting you know what you can do with JavaScript in Webpage design.

www.htmlonline.tk
