HTML Links - Hyperlinks

HTML links are hyperlinks.

You can click on a link and jump to another document.

When you move the mouse over a link, the mouse arrow will turn into a little hand.

**Note:** A link does not have to be text. It can be an image or any other HTML element.

HTML Links - Syntax

In HTML, links are defined with the <a> tag:

<a href="*url*">*link text*</a>

Example

<a href="https://www.w3schools.com/html/">Visit our HTML tutorial</a>

The href attribute specifies the destination address (https://www.w3schools.com/html/) of the link.

The **link text** is the visible part (Visit our HTML tutorial).

Clicking on the link text will send you to the specified address.

**Note:** Without a forward slash at the end of subfolder addresses, you might generate two requests to the server. Many servers will automatically add a forward slash to the end of the address, and then create a new request.

Local Links

The example above used an absolute URL (a full web address).

A local link (link to the same web site) is specified with a relative URL (without https://www....).

Example

<a href="html\_images.asp">HTML Images</a>

HTML Link Colors

By default, a link will appear like this (in all browsers):

* An unvisited link is underlined and blue
* A visited link is underlined and purple
* An active link is underlined and red

You can change the default colors, by using CSS:

Example

<style>  
a:link {  
  color: green;   
  background-color: transparent;   
  text-decoration: none;  
}  
  
a:visited {  
  color: pink;  
  background-color: transparent;  
  text-decoration: none;  
}  
  
a:hover {  
  color: red;  
  background-color: transparent;  
  text-decoration: underline;  
}  
  
a:active {  
  color: yellow;  
  background-color: transparent;  
  text-decoration: underline;  
}  
</style>

Links are often styled as buttons, by using CSS:

[This is a link](javascript:void(0))

Example

<style>  
a:link, a:visited {  
  background-color: #f44336;  
  color: white;  
  padding: 15px 25px;  
  text-align: center;  
  text-decoration: none;  
  display: inline-block;  
}  
  
a:hover, a:active {  
  background-color: red;  
}  
</style>

To learn more about CSS, go to our [CSS Tutorial](https://www.w3schools.com/css/default.asp).

HTML Links - The target Attribute

The target attribute specifies where to open the linked document.

The target attribute can have one of the following values:

* \_blank - Opens the linked document in a new window or tab
* \_self - Opens the linked document in the same window/tab as it was clicked (this is default)
* \_parent - Opens the linked document in the parent frame
* \_top - Opens the linked document in the full body of the window
* *framename* - Opens the linked document in a named frame

This example will open the linked document in a new browser window/tab:

Example

<a href="https://www.w3schools.com/" target="\_blank">Visit W3Schools!</a>

**Tip:** If your webpage is locked in a frame, you can use target="\_top" to break out of the frame:

Example

<a href="https://www.w3schools.com/html/" target="\_top">HTML5 tutorial!</a>

HTML Links - Image as Link

It is common to use images as links:

Example

<a href="default.asp">  
  <img src="smiley.gif" alt="HTML tutorial" style="width:42px;height:42px;border:0;">  
</a>

**Note:** border:0; is added to prevent IE9 (and earlier) from displaying a border around the image (when the image is a link).

Link Titles

The title attribute specifies extra information about an element. The information is most often shown as a tooltip text when the mouse moves over the element.

Example

<a href="https://www.w3schools.com/html/" title="Go to W3Schools HTML section">Visit our HTML Tutorial</a>

HTML Links - Create a Bookmark

HTML bookmarks are used to allow readers to jump to specific parts of a Web page.

Bookmarks can be useful if your webpage is very long.

To make a bookmark, you must first create the bookmark, and then add a link to it.

When the link is clicked, the page will scroll to the location with the bookmark.

Example

First, create a bookmark with the id attribute:

<h2 id="C4">Chapter 4</h2>

Then, add a link to the bookmark ("Jump to Chapter 4"), from within the same page:

<a href="#C4">Jump to Chapter 4</a>

Or, add a link to the bookmark ("Jump to Chapter 4"), from another page:

Example

<a href="html\_demo.html#C4">Jump to Chapter 4</a>

External Paths

External pages can be referenced with a full URL or with a path relative to the current web page.

This example uses a full URL to link to a web page:

Example

<a href="https://www.w3schools.com/html/default.asp">HTML tutorial</a>

This example links to a page located in the html folder on the current web site:

Example

<a href="/html/default.asp">HTML tutorial</a>

This example links to a page located in the same folder as the current page:

Example

<a href="default.asp">HTML tutorial</a>

You can read more about file paths in the chapter [HTML File Paths](https://www.w3schools.com/html/html_filepaths.asp).

Chapter Summary

* Use the <a> element to define a link
* Use the href attribute to define the link address
* Use the target attribute to define where to open the linked document
* Use the <img> element (inside <a>) to use an image as a link
* Use the id attribute (id="*value*") to define bookmarks in a page
* Use the href attribute (href="#*value*") to link to the bookmark