**HTML Links**

Links can be found on almost every web page. Users can navigate from page to page by clicking on links.

## **HTML Links - Hyperlinks**

Hyperlinks are HTML links.

You can jump to another document by clicking on a link.

The mouse arrow will turn into a little hand when you move the mouse over a link.

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

## **HTML Links - Syntax**

A hyperlink is defined by the HTML a> tag. The syntax is as follows:

<a href="url">link text</a>

The href attribute, which indicates the link's destination, is the most important attribute of the <a> element.

The part of the link text that will be visible to the reader is the link text.

The reader will be directed to the specified URL address by clicking on the link text.

### **Example**

This example shows how to create a link to compuhelpindia.com:

<a href="https://www.compuhelpindia.com/">Visit compuhelpindia.com!</a>

By default, links will appear as follows in all browsers:

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

## **HTML Links - The target Attribute**

The linked page will open in the current browser window by default. To change this, you'll need to change the link's target.

The target attribute specifies where to open the linked document.

The target attribute can have one of the following values:

* \_self - Default. Opens the document in the same window/tab as it was clicked
* \_blank - Opens the document in a new window or tab
* \_parent - Opens the document in the parent frame
* \_top - Opens the document in the full body of the window

### **Example**

Use target="\_blank" to open the linked document in a new browser window or tab:

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

## **Absolute URLs vs. Relative URLs**

Both examples above are using an **absolute URL** (a full web address) in the href attribute.

A local link (a link to a page within the same website) is specified with a **relative URL** (without the "https://www" part):

### **Example**

<h2>Absolute URLs</h2>  
<p><a href="https://www.compuhelp.org/">Compuhelpindia</a></p>  
<p><a href="https://www.google.com/">Google</a></p>  
  
<h2>Relative URLs</h2>  
<p><a href="html\_images.asp">HTML Images</a></p>  
<p><a href="/css/default.asp">CSS Tutorial</a></p>

## **HTML Links - Use an Image as a Link**

To use an image as a link, just put the <img> tag inside the <a> tag:

### **Example**

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

## **Link to an Email Address**

Use mailto: inside the href attribute to create a link that opens the user's email program (to let them send a new email):

### **Example**

<a href="mailto:someone@example.com">Send email</a>

## **Button as a Link**

To use an HTML button as a link, you have to add some JavaScript code.

JavaScript allows you to specify what happens at certain events, such as a click of a button:

### **Example**

<button onclick="document.location='default.asp'">HTML Tutorial</button>

## **Link Titles**

Extra information about an element is specified by the title attribute. When the mouse is moved over an element, the information is usually displayed as a tooltip text.

### **Example**

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

## **More on Absolute URLs and Relative URLs**

### **Example**

Use a full URL to link to a web page:

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

### **Example**

Link to a page located in the html folder on the current web site:

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

### **Example**

Link to a page located in the same folder as the current page:

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

## **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 mailto: scheme inside the href attribute to create a link that opens the user's email program

## **HTML Link Tags**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Tag** | **Description** |
| [<a>](https://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_a.asp) | Defines a hyperlink |

# HTML Links - Different Colors

Depending on whether an HTML link has been visited, is unvisited, or is active, it is displayed in a different colour.

## **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