A short intro to coding:

A code is what computers run to carry out actions. These codes are written in a specific programming language that the computer reads. Hyper Text Markup Language, also known as HTML, is one programming language that is used to write websites. This code is read by the web browser, and then displayed accordingly. One accompanying language to HTML is Cascading Style Sheets, or CSS. It describes what each piece of HTML code should look like. It can be found on the HTML document of on a separate file. Anybody with a willing mind can learn these languages. Continue if you would like to learn.

Learning code can be a tricky process. Luckily, people are creating more and more online resources to teach it. One of these resources is *Codeacademy*, a fully hands on interactive learning experience. This website is entirely free and contains tutorials in HTML and CSS.

Optimization

Optimizing an image means to save an image in the best possible file type/ quality that is still small enough to meet your needs. Three popular file types include JPEG, GIF, and PNG files. Unlike other file types, JPEG images lose quality each time that they are saved. On the other hand, they can store millions of colors and have small file sizes. GIF images collect pixels of all one color and save them as one large block of color. These images don’t lose quality, but can only use the 216 web safe colors. Dithering is when an image without web safe colors is saved to a file type that doesn’t support its colors. The result is slightly changed colors to fit into the web safe colors. A similar file to a GIF is a PNG file, which only differs because it has the ability to store millions of colors. These popular image types serve different purposes for the creator. On the right is a diagram of three images being compared. The file types have different sizes and qualities.