# Text Formatting (Bold, Italic & Line Breaks)

## Overview

Adding text to a website using Headings and Paragraphs is just the first step. To make your content readable and engaging, you need to format it. In this lesson, we cover how to apply basic styling like bolding, italicizing, and underlining directly using HTML tags. We also explore a critical difference between visual formatting and semantic formatting.

---

## 1. Basic Text Formatting (<b>, <i>, <u>)

HTML provides straightforward tags to change the physical appearance of your text. You wrap these tags strictly around the specific words you want to format, usually inside a <p> tag.

- **Bold (<b>):** Makes the text thick and dark.
- **Italic (<i>):** Slants the text to the right.
- **Underline (<u>):** Draws a line underneath the text.

```
<body>
    <p>This is a normal sentence.</p>
    <p>This is a <b>bold</b> word.</p>
    <p>This is an <i>italic</i> word.</p>
    <p>This is an <u>underlined</u> word.</p>

    <p>This word is <b><i>bold and italic</i></b>.</p>
</body>
```

---

## 2. The Pro Detail: <b> vs <strong>

If you look at the browser, the <b> tag and the <strong> tag make the text look exactly the same (both are bold). However, in the professional software engineering industry, they serve two entirely different purposes.

- **<b> (Visual Only):** This tag simply tells the browser, *"Make this text look bold."* It has no deeper meaning.
- **<strong> (Semantic/SEO):** This tag tells the browser, Search Engines (like Google), and Screen Readers, *"This text is highly important."* ###
- 🚨 **Why this matters:**
  If you are highlighting a keyword that you want your website to rank for on Google, you **must** use <strong>. If you just want to make a word bold for aesthetic reasons, use <b>. Modern web development heavily favors semantic tags like <strong>.

```
<p>Visually, this is just <b>dark text</b>.</p>
<p>Semantically, this is a <strong>highly important keyword</strong>.</p>
```

*(Note: The same rule applies to Italics. <i> is just visual, while <em> stands for "Emphasis" and is semantic).*

---

## 3. Line Breaks (<br>)

A unique quirk of HTML is that it ignores white space. If you press the Enter key 10 times inside your VS Code editor, the browser will completely ignore it and display everything on one single, continuous line.

To force the browser to drop down to a new line, we use the **Break** tag: <br>.

```
<p>
    This is line one.<br>
    This is line two right below it.
</p>
```

### Empty Elements (Self-Closing Tags)

Notice that the <br> tag does not have a closing tag (there is no </br>). Because it doesn't wrap around any text, it stands alone. Tags like this are called **Empty Elements** or **Self-Closing Tags**.

---

## 4. The Horizontal Rule (<hr>)

If you want to visually separate different sections of your webpage, you can use the **Horizontal Rule** tag: <hr>. This draws a straight, horizontal line across the screen. Like the break tag, it is an empty element.

```
<h2>Section 1: Introduction</h2>
<p>Welcome to my website.</p>

<hr>

<h2>Section 2: About Me</h2>
<p>I am a software engineering student.</p>
```