

2.14 HYPERLINK

A LINK (or *hyperlink*) is a word, group of words, or image that you can click on to jump to another document or another section on the same page.

Hyperlinks, or simply links, connect HTML pages and other resources on the web. When you include a link on your web page, you enable visitors to travel from your web page to another website, another web page on your site, or even another location on the same page. You can also link to such resources that are not even HTML pages at all, such as e-mail addresses, pictures, and text files etc. Without links, a web page stands alone, disconnected from the rest of the web. With links, that page becomes part of the web.

In HTML, `<A>` element defines a hyperlink. This element is called *anchor tag* as well. Anything between the opening `<A>` tag and the closing `` tag becomes part of the link and a user can click that part to reach to the linked document. The syntax of using `<A>` tag is:

```
<A href = "URL"> Link text </A>
```

Here, the *href* attribute specifies the destination of a link. The "Link text" doesn't have to be text. It can be an image or any other HTML element.

Note: When you move the cursor over a link in a Web page, the arrow will turn into a little hand.

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.

2.14.1 <A> ATTRIBUTES

Attribute	Value	Description
href	URL	Specifies the URL of the page the link goes to.
name	section_name	Specifies the name of an anchor or section.
target	_blank _parent _self _top framename	Specifies where to open the linked document.

shape	default rect circle poly	Specifies the shape of a link. (Not supported in HTML5.)
coords	<i>Coordinates</i>	Specifies the coordinates of a link. (Not supported in HTML5.)

2.14.2 TYPES OF HYPERLINKS

- Absolute Hyperlink (External Hyperlink)
- Relative Hyperlink (Internal Hyperlink)

(1) **Absolute Hyperlink (External Hyperlink):** An *absolute hyperlink* uses a complete URL to connect browsers to a web page or online resource. Links that use a complete URL to point to a resource are called *absolute* because they provide a complete, stand-alone path to another web resource. When you link to a page on someone else's website, the web browser needs every bit of information in the URL to find that page. The browser starts with the domain in the URL and works its way through the path to a specific file.

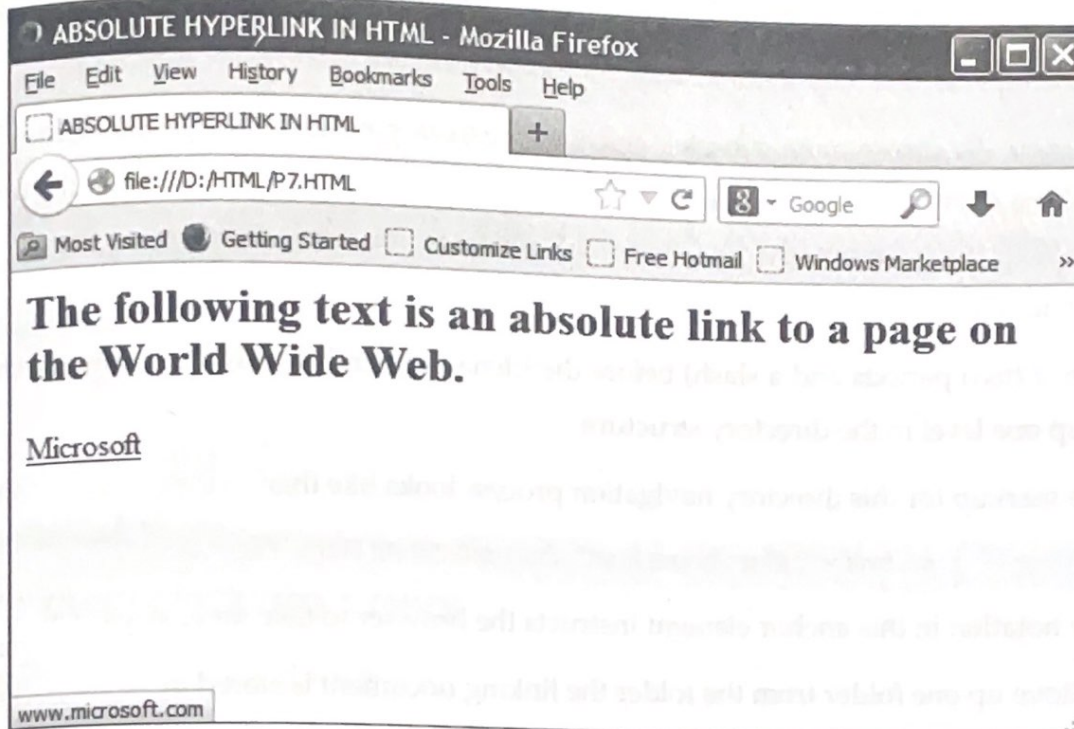
Example:

```
<HTML>
<HEAD>
  <TITLE>ABSOLUTE HYPERLINK IN HTML</TITLE>
</HEAD>
<BODY>
  <H2>
```

The following text is an absolute link to a page on the World Wide Web.

```
</H2>
<A href="http://www.microsoft.com/">
  Microsoft
</A>
</BODY>
</HTML>
```


After the execution of above code, the output would be look like:



(2) **Relative Hyperlink (Internal Hyperlink):** A relative hyperlink uses a kind of shorthand to specify a URL for a resource you're pointing to.

Use the following guidelines with relative links in your HTML pages:

- o Create relative links between resources in the same domain (web server).
- o Because both resources are in the same domain, you may skip domain information from the URL.

A relative link is similar to telling someone that he or she needs to go to the Western Mall. If the person already knows where the Western Mall is, he or she doesn't need additional directions. Web browsers behave the same way in case of relative link.

If you use relative links on your site, your links still work if you change Servers or Domain names. You can take advantage of relative URLs when you create a link between pages on the same website.

For example: If you want to make a link from `http://www.rimtpb.org/home.html` to `http://www.rimtpb.org/about.html`, you can use this simplified relative URL in an anchor element on `home.html`:

Know more `about` RIMT.

When a browser sees a link without a domain name, the browser assumes that the link is relative and uses the domain and path from the linking page to find the linked page. The above example works only if `home.html` and `about.html` are in the same directory.

As your site grows more complex and you organize your files into various folders, you can still use relative links. However, you must provide additional information in the relative URL to help the browser find files that don't reside in the same directory as the file from which you're linking.

Use `../` (two periods and a slash) before the filename to indicate that the browser should move up one level in the directory structure.

The markup for this directory navigation process looks like this:

```
<A href = "../docs/home.html">Documentation Home Page</A>
```

The notation in this anchor element instructs the browser to take these steps:

1. Move up one folder from the folder the linking document is stored in.
2. Find a folder called *docs*.
3. Inside that folder, find a file called *home.html*.

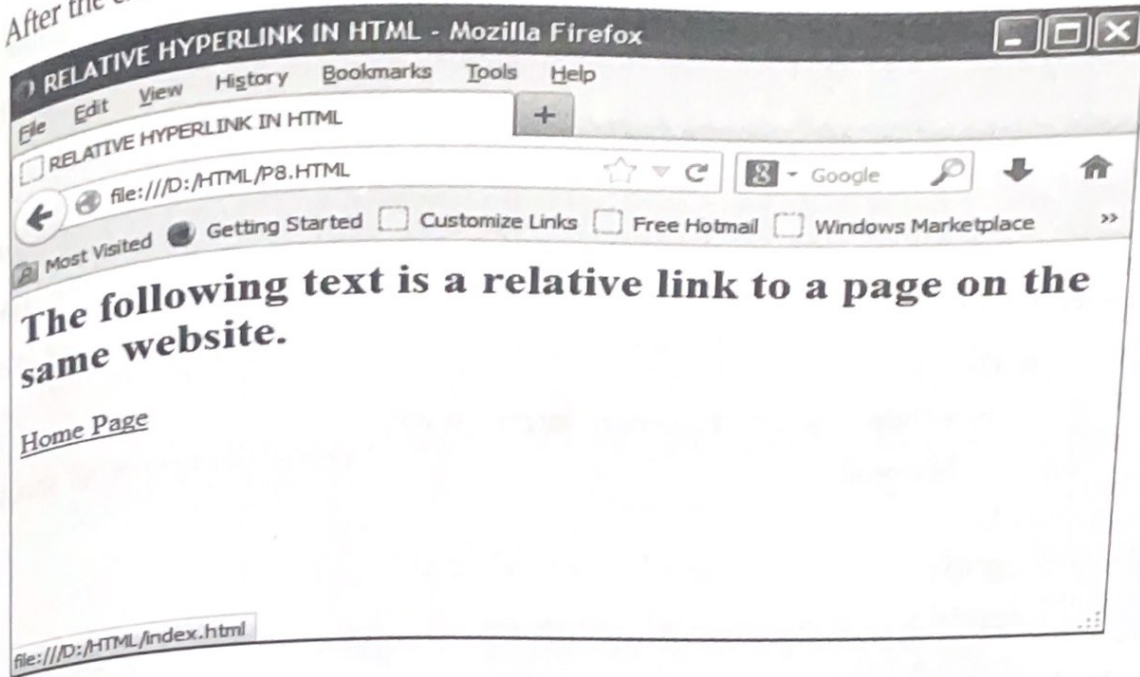
Example:

```
<HTML>
<HEAD>
  <TITLE>RELATIVE HYPERLINK IN HTML</TITLE>
</HEAD>
<BODY>
  <H2>
```

The following text is a relative link to a page on the same website.

```
</H2>
<A href="index.html">
  Home Page
</A>
</BODY>
</HTML>
```


After the execution of above code, the output would be look like:



2.14.3 CUSTOMIZING LINKS

In HTML, You can customize link to:

- open linked documents in new windows.
- specific locations within the same webpage.
- a spot on a different web page within the same website.
- a spot on a different web page on other websites.
- Non-HTML pages, such as *Portable Document Format (PDF) files, Compressed files, Word processing documents* etc.

2.14.3.1 Open Linked documents in New Windows

The web works because you can link pages on your website to pages on other people's websites by using a simple anchor element (<A>). When you link to someone else's site, though, you send users away from your own site.

To keep users on your site, HTML can open the linked page in a *new window* or in a *new tab* inside the same browser window. The simple addition of the target attribute to an anchor element opens that link in a new window or in a new tab instead of opening it in the current window.

Example:

```
<HTML>
<HEAD>
```

```
<TITLE>OPEN LINKS IN NEW WINDOWS</TITLE>
</HEAD>
<BODY>
<H2>
```

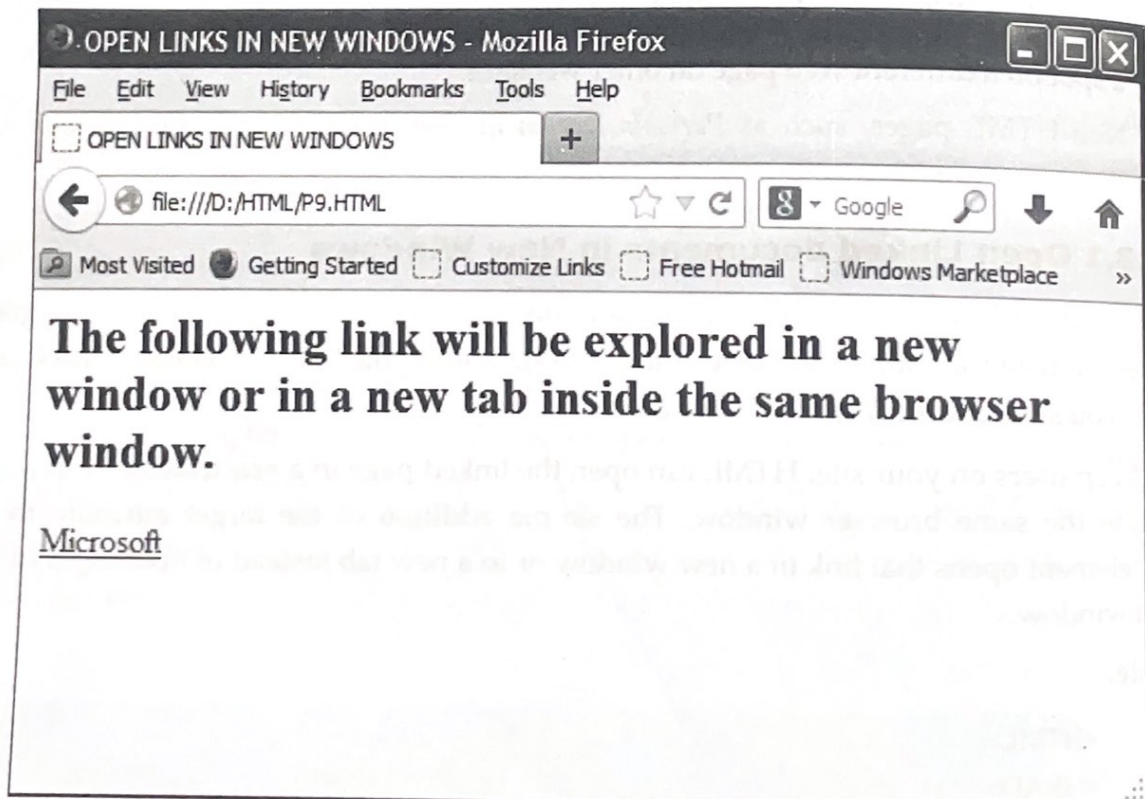
The following link will be explored in a new window or in a new tab inside the same browser window.

```
</H2>
<A href="http://www.microsoft.com/" target="_blank" >
    Microsoft
</A>
</BODY>
</HTML>
```

In the above example, the use of target attribute in <A> element (target="_blank") will simply tell the browser to do the following:

- o Keep the linking page open in the current window.
- o Open the linked page in a new window or tab.

The output of above example would be look like:



In the above output window, once you will click on the hyperlink Microsoft, then that link will be explored in a new window or in a new tab inside the same browser window.



2.14.3.2 Link to Specific Locations within the same webpage

In HTML, *Hyperlinks* or simply *links* can help users navigate a single web page from one section to another section. This type of link is called *intradocument hyperlink* or *named document link*.

An intradocument hyperlink uses a URL like this:

```
<A href = "#top">Back to top</A>
```

Here, the pound sign (#) indicates that you're pointing to a spot on the same page, not on another page.

Example:

```
<HTML>
<HEAD>
  <TITLE>LINKING WITHIN THE SAME WEBPAGE</TITLE>
</HEAD>
<BODY>
```

```

<A href="#bottom">E-Commerce</A>
<BR><BR><BR><BR><BR>
<BR><BR><BR><BR><BR>
<BR><BR><BR><BR><BR>
<BR><BR><BR><BR><BR>
<H2><A name="bottom"></A>E-Commerce</H2>
<P>

```

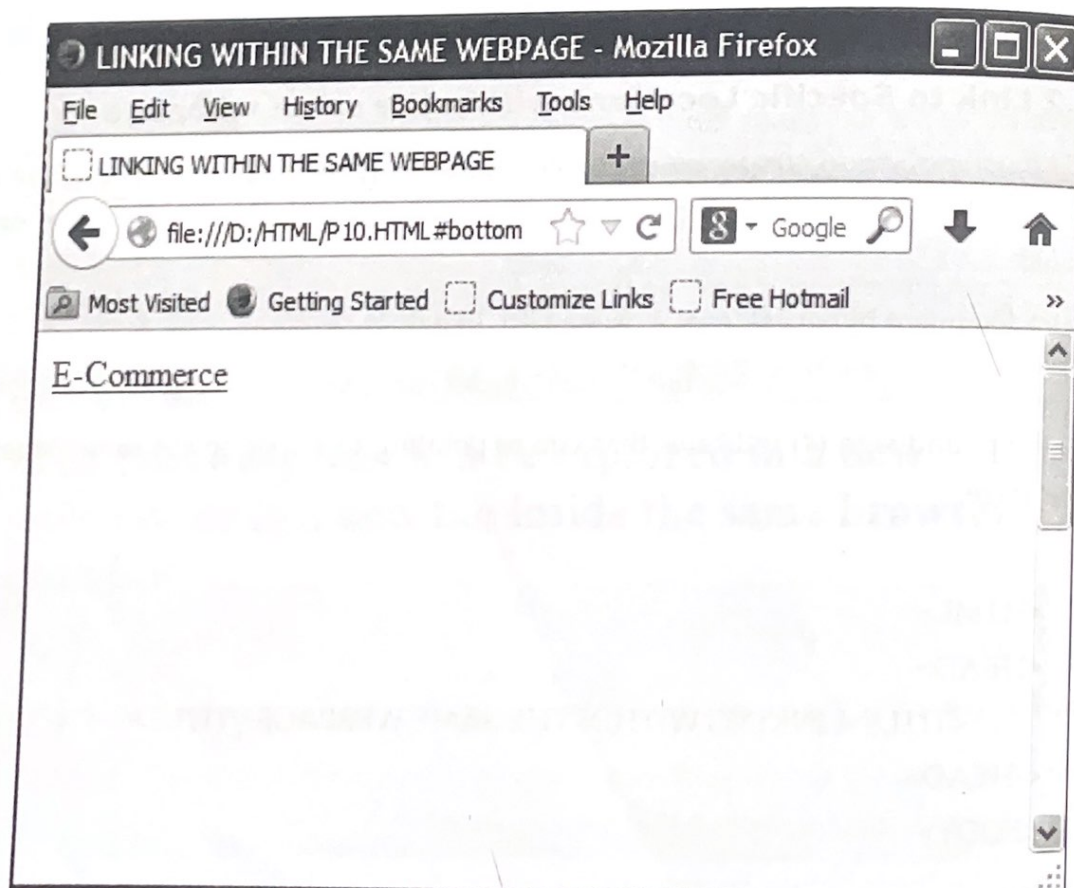
E-Commerce or Electronics Commerce is a methodology of modern business which addresses the need of business organizations, vendors and customers to reduce cost and improve the quality of goods and services while increasing the speed of delivery.

```

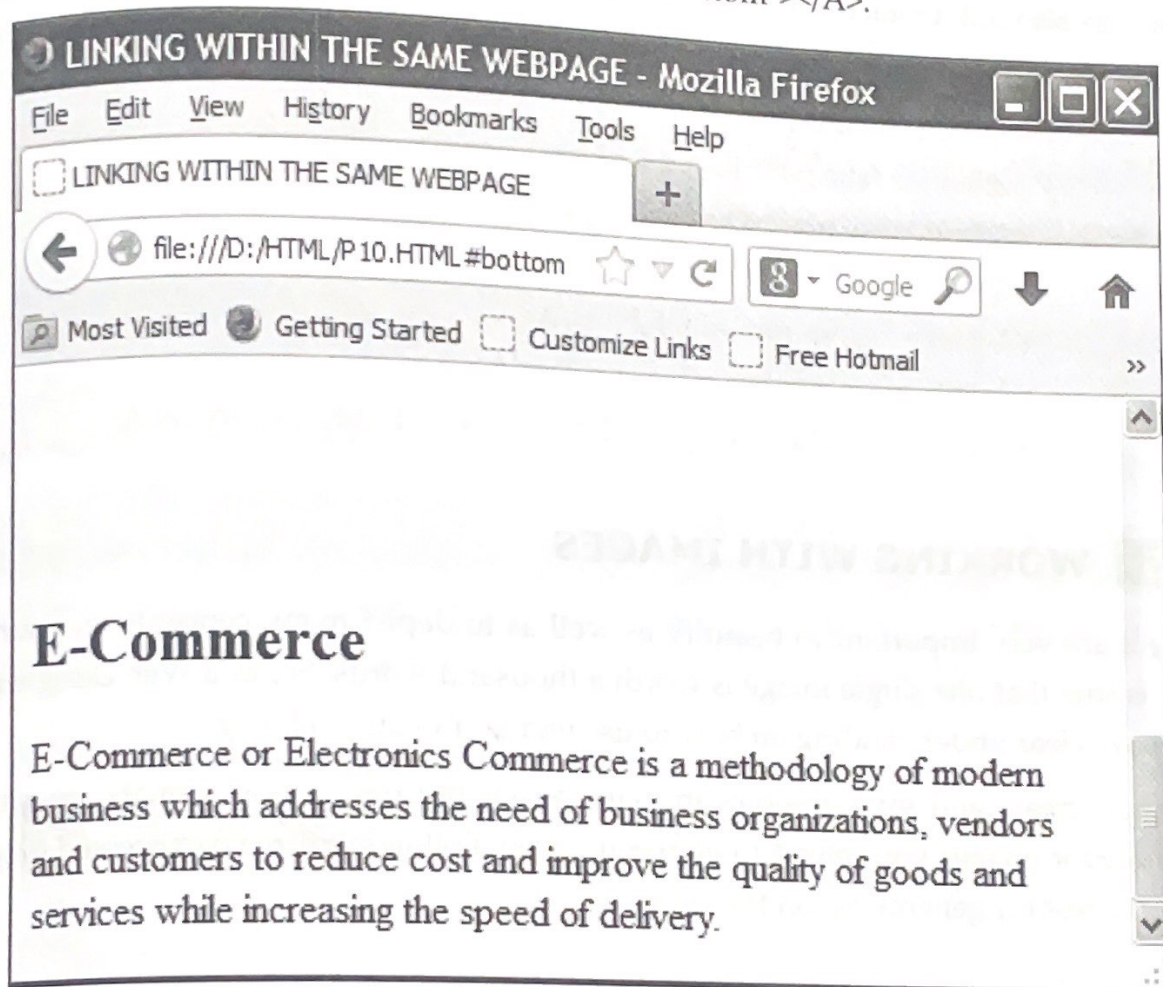
</P>
</BODY>
</HTML>

```

The output of above example would be look like:



In the above output window, when user clicks the E-Commerce link, the browser jumps forward to the bottom spot - marked by ``.



The text for this example is short, but you can see how it works by resizing your browser window or by placing multiple `
` tags in between the link and the defined spot.

2.14.3.3 Link to a Spot on a different web page within the same website

You can combine *intradocument* and *interdocument* links to send visitors to a spot on a different web page on your site. Thus, to link to a spot named `contacts` on a page named `index.html` on your site, use this markup:

```
<A href = "index.html#contacts">Contact Details</A>
```