

HTML For Beginners

By **Nongjian Zhou**

A tutorial for those who want to learn HTML in a quick and easy way.

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Basic Tags

Tags are elements of the HTML language. Almost every kind of tag has an opening symbol and a closing symbol. For example, the <HEAD> tag is at the beginning of heading information. It also has a closing tag </HEAD>.

<HTML></HTML>

This element tells browsers that the file is a HTML document. Each HTML document starts with the tag <HTML>. This tag should be the first thing in the document. It has an associated closing tag </HTML> which must be the last tag in the file.

<HEAD></HEAD>

The head contains important information about the document.

<TITLE></TITLE>

The title tag is an important tag. It is used to display a title on the top of the browser window. Both the opening and the closing tags go between the opening and closing tags.

The following example shows how to use the tags:

```
<html>
<head>
<title>John's Homepage</title>
</head>
<body>
</body>
</html>
```

<META>

Another tag that can be added in the head is a <META> tag. It is used by search engines to index a page. There are several different meta names.

The author meta:

<META NAME="author" CONTENT="Nongjian Zhou">

The description meta:

<META NAME="description"
CONTENT="A very easy tutorial for HTML beginners">

The keyword meta. Note that always separate Keywords with a comma.

<META NAME="keyword"
CONTENT="html,tutorial,beginner,web design">

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Basic Tags

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The following example shows how these tags are coded:

```
<head>
<title>HTML For Beginners</title>
<meta name="Author"
      content="Nongjian Zhou">
<meta name="Description"
      content="A very easy tutorial for HTML beginners">
<meta name="Keywords"
      content="html,tutorial,beginner,web design">
</head>
```

<BODY></BODY>

The Body Tag is used to identify the start of the main portion of your v. Between <BODY> </BODY> tags you will place all images, links, text, paragraphs, and forms. We will explain each tag that is used within the HTML file.

Character, Paragraph and Position

<H#></H#>

There are six levels of headings, numbered 1 through 6. These tags are the characters in the outlines. The biggest heading is <H1> and smallest is <H6>:

```
<H1>Biggest text</H1>
.....
<H6>smallest text</H6>
```

<P></P>

Paragraph tags (<P> opening tag and </P> closing tag) allow you to p paragraph. For example:

```
<p>Basic Information</p>
```

The </P> closing tag may be omitted.

Align

The defaulted position is left justification. You can also use "ALIGN" for justification:

```
<p ALIGN="center"> Paragraph will be centered</p>
<p ALIGN="left"> Paragraph will be left justified</p>
<p ALIGN="right">Paragraph will be right justified</p>
```

<CENTER></CENTER>

This kind of tags have capability of allowing you to center the text on the homepage.

```
<center><p> Paragraph will be centered</p></center>
```

**
**

This tag break whatever to be on the next line. The following is an example:

```
<p>Welcome To<br> My Homepage!</p>
```

<HR>

This tag adds a horizontal line or divider to your web site. An <HR> tag is the following divider:

The <hr> tag can be set as:

```
<hr width="450" align="right" size="5">
```


You can add spaces in your text by using ** **.

<BLOCKQUOTE></BLOCKQUOTE>

You can use this tag to format or remove a text by movinging both the right sides of the paragraph.

```
<BLOCKQUOTE>
<H1>Welcome To John's Homepage!</H1>
<p>Content</p>
<p>Basic Information</p>
</BLOCKQUOTE>
```

<PRE></PRE>

Preformatted the text of the paragraph to exactly display what you type in Web browser. For example:

```
<pre>
Item      Price      quantity
-----
A         34.99       23
B         25.95       13
-----
</pre>
```

Comments

The comment tag looks like this:

```
<!-- Comments -->
```

Nothing inside the comment tags will show up when your page is viewed.

Character Style

Character styles include physical and logical character styles, and Face Color. The following is character style table.

Type	Choice	function
Physical styles		Make text bold .
	<I>	Make text <i>italic</i> .
	<U>	Make text <u>underline</u> .
	<Strike>	Make text strike through .
	<Sup>	Make text ^{superscript} .
	<Sub>	Make text _{subscript} .
	Teletype	Make text teletype.
Logical styles		Indicate the text is very important.
		Indicate the text is important.
	<Cite>	Indicate that the text is from a book or other doc
	<Address>	Indicate that the text is an address.
	<Dfn>	Indicate that the text is a definition.
	<Samp>	Indicate that the text is a sequence of literal char
	Keyboard	Indicate that the text is keyboard input.
	<Var>	Indicate that the text is a variable.
	<Code>	Indicate that the text is code.

Font	Choice	Function
Face	Default	Make text display in the default font (Times New Roman) in the Web browser.
	Family	Type a list of fonts separated by commas (for example: Helvetica, Arial, Courier). The text will display in the font found on the browser's system.
	(Font name)	Make the text display in the font specified. (If the font is not available on the browser's system, another font will be substituted.)
Size	1 through 7 (3 is the default)	Format text with 7 sizes where 7 is the largest size and 1 is the smallest.
	Increase	Format text with the largest size (same as 7).
	Decrease	Format text with the smallest size (same as 1).
Color	"#xxxxxx" or: White, Red, Blue and Others	Make the text a different color.

The tags below have the effect shown on the text in between.

```

<U>underlined text</U>
<B>bold text</B>
<I>Italicized text</I>
<BIG>Big text</BIG>
<SMALL>small text</SMALL>
<TT>Monospaced typewriter text</TT>
<BLINK>blink</BLINK>
(Note: This only works on Netscape)
<SUB>This makes a subscript.</SUB>
<SUP>This makes a superscript.</SUP>
<STRIKE>strikeout</STRIKE>
<FONT FACE="Arial">This is a test</FONT>
<FONT COLOR="#00FF00">Text is in the color of Green</FONT>
<FONT SIZE="+2">This is a test</FONT>

```

<BASEFONT>

You may use this tag to set default font face, size or color for the page and save your time of coding. For example:

```
<basefont face="Arial" size="7" color="red">
```

Lists

There are three kinds of lists in HTML:

```

Unordered lists <UL></UL>
Ordered lists <OL></OL>
Definition lists <DL></DL>

```

Unordered Lists

This list starts with an opening list tag and ends the list with a closing list tag. Between the and , you use the (list item) tag followed by the individual item; no tag is needed. For example:

```
<UL>
<LI> Name
<LI> Phone
<LI> ID
</UL>
```

In the web browser the above code would appear three elements as:

- Name
- Phone
- ID

Ordered Lists

An ordered list is similar to an unordered list, except it uses instead of :

```
<OL>
<LI>College
<LI>High School
<LI>Elementary School
</OL>
```

The output is:

1. College
2. High School
3. Elementary School

Definition Lists

A definition list starts with <DL> and ends with </DL>. This list consists of alternating a definition term and a definition definition. The definition term is enclosed in <DT> </DT> and should precede the definition definition. The definition definition is enclosed in <DD> </DD>. So, a whole definition list looks like:

```
<DL>
<DT> term </DT>
<DD> definition </DD>
...
<DT> term </DT>
<DD> definition </DD>
</DL>
```

Links

Links allow you to navigate from one page to another on the internet or on a local machine. Before you add a link to your page you need a URL of a website or a path of your local file that you want to link to. The link tag also has the capability to provide a way for linking an e-mail address. To link to a file in your current directory, use anchor text. For example:

```
<A HREF="basicInfo.html">Basic Information</A>
```

If you want to link to a file that is in another directory, you can write the link like this:

```
<A HREF="path/name.html">Text</A>
```

You can create links from your webpage to other webpages on the internet:

```
<A HREF="http://internetcollege.virtualave.net/">Internet College</A>
```

If you want link to the an email address and when you click it, then start a program, you can write the a link like this:

```
<A HREF="mailto:internet101@go.com">Email us</A>
```

If a file has a large size, you may want to create links to different part of the page. To do that, first you must leave a pointer to the place in the file to link to. The pointer looks like ``. Then use `` tags. For example, you want to have a link from the section D to the section M of your current project of your page. Right before "My current project" you need to add ``. At the section D of your page you add the following link: ``. The # symbol tells your browser to look for the link within the same document instead of looking for another file. You can use any number or letter to replace "M":

```
<BODY>
<A NAME="M"></A>My current projects
.....
<A HREF="#M"></A>Click here to see my projects</A>
</BODY>
```

You can link to any place in other documents by the same way:

```
<A HREF="people.html#F3">Faculty Infomation</A>
```

You also can link a part of another page on the Internet if you can put `` in it:

```
<A HREF="http://server/path/file#F3">
```

Image

Most Web browsers can display images that are in GIF, or JPEG format. To include an image, enter:

```
<IMG SRC="ImageName">
```

For example: `` The `` tag is used to define an image. This tag does not have a closing tag. The IMG part tells the browser to add an image, The SRC tells your browser where to find the image. You can also include two other attributes on `` tags to tell your browser the size of the images. The HEIGHT and WIDTH attributes let your browser set aside the appropriate space (in pixels) for the images. For example:

```
<IMG SRC="monkey.gif" HEIGHT=80 WIDTH=100>
```

You can put an image in the left or right of a page by using `ALIGN`. For example:

```
<IMG SRC="ImageName" ALIGN="right">
```

By default the bottom of an image is aligned with the following text. You can align images to the top, bottom or middle of a paragraph by using one of the following things: TOP, MIDDLE, BOTTOM, For example:

```
<IMG SRC="monkey.gif" ALIGN="top">
```

Note: You must use "align", not "valign" to set for TOP, MIDDLE, BOTTOM. This is different from the table alignment. We can use "vspace" and "hspace" to set the space around the picture:

```
<IMG SRC="monkey.gif" vspace="50" hspace="80">
```

The ALT attribute is one of IMG attributes. You can use the ALT attribute to provide a text description of the image.

specify text to be displayed instead of an image. For example:

```
<IMG SRC="monky.gif" ALT="[monky]">
```

In this example, if someone cannot see the image, at least they will be able to read the name of the image and know that it would be a monkey because the words "[monky]" is shown in the place.

An image can be used as hyperlinks just like plain text. The following is the code:

```
<A HREF="animal.html"><IMG SRC="monky.gif"></A>
```

The blue border that surrounds the image indicates that it's a clickable image. If you do not want to display this border, you can add the BORDER attribute and setting it to zero:

```
<A HREF="animal.html"><IMG SRC="monky.gif" BORDER=0></A>
```

You can load an image from another webpage to your page. To display an image on someone else's page, you need to find the URL:

```
<IMG SRC="http://www.abcd.com/image2.gif">
```

You also can use an image as a background. The tag to include a background image is included in the <BODY> statement as an attribute:

```
<BODY BACKGROUND="ImageName">
```

A large inline image would slow down the loading of the main document. Instead, you may have an image open as an external image. To include a reference to an external image, enter:

```
<A HREF="ImageName">link anchor</A>
```

You can also use a smaller image as a link to a larger image. Enter:

```
<A HREF="LargerImageName"><IMG SRC="SmallImageName"></A>
```

Color

You may want to have a specific color for the background, text, links, visited links, and active links. In HTML, Colors are coded as a 6 digit hex RGB value (red, green, blue) number. A hexadecimal value in the range 00-FF. For example, 000000 is black (no color at all), FFFFFFFF is white (fully saturated with all colors). FF0000 is bright red, 0000FF is bright blue, and 00FF00 is past green. You must have the "#" sign before the actual code. You can use the attribute in the <BODY> tag to change the color of text, links, vlinks (visited links), and alinks (active links). For example:

```
<BODY bgcolor="#FFFFFF" text="#000000"  
link="#0000FF" vlink="#800000" alink="#808000">
```

You can also use the name of the color instead of the corresponding RGB value to indicate some basic colors. For example, "black", "red", "blue", and "green" are all valid for use in place of RGB values. Coloring specific text is done with the tag like changing the font size. The tag is like:

```
<FONT color="code"> text </FONT>
```

This tag can be combined with the font size. For example:

```
<FONT color="#00FF00" size="+3"> text </FONT>
```

Table

The format of table is:

```
<TABLE>
<TR> <TD> Table Entry </TD> ... <TD> Table Entry </TD>
</TR>
...
<TR> <TD> Table Entry </TD> ... <TD> Table Entry </TD>
</TR>
</TABLE>
```

The whole table is opened and closed with <TABLE> </TABLE>. Each row is encapsulated in <TR> </TR>. Within the row are cells, enclosed in <TD> </TD>. There can be as many rows and columns as you want and as wide as the screen. The browser will autofomat the rows, vertically centering contents if necessary. If you want a cell to span more than one column, use it in <TD COLSPAN=X> </TD>, where X indicate the number of columns. Similarly, <TD ROWSPAN=X> </TD> will cause the cell to span X rows. A border can be placed around all the cells by using <TABLE BORDER=X> </TABLE>, where X is the number of pixels thick the border should be. Let's see an example:

```
<CENTER><TABLE BORDER=1 WIDTH="62%" HEIGHT=90>
<TR>
  <TD WIDTH=82><CENTER> Name</CENTER></TD>
  <TD WIDTH=111><CENTER>Phone</CENTER></TD>
  <TD WIDTH=91><CENTER>ID</CENTER></TD>
</TR>
<TR>
  <TD WIDTH=82><CENTER>John Lee</CENTER></TD>
  <TD WIDTH=111><CENTER>456-968</CENTER></TD>
  <TD WIDTH=91><CENTER>276580</CENTER></TD>
</TR>
<TR>
  <TD WIDTH=82><CENTER>Cherry Heitz</CENTER></TD>
  <TD WIDTH=111><CENTER>789-326</CENTER></TD>
  <TD WIDTH=91><CENTER>908743</CENTER></TD>
</TR>
</TABLE></CENTER>
```

Name	Phone	ID
John Lee	456-968	276580
Cherry Heitz	789-326	908743

The value of width and height can be "xx%" or XX. For example: WIDTH=60% or WIDTH=450. "xx%" allow the table size changing while the window is changing. The value of Border can be zero. In this case, the table will have no border. You can make a table looking like this:



The following is the code of this table.

```
<TABLE BORDER=10 CELLSPACING=10 CELLPADDING=2>
<TR><TD></TD><TD></TD></TR>
<TR><TD></TD><TD></TD></TR>
</TABLE>
```

The CELLSPACING attribute refers to the space between cells and should be in pixels. The CELLPADDING attribute refers to the spacing within the cell (the space between the cell walls and the contents of the cell).

Element	Description
---------	-------------

<TABLE> </TABLE>	defines a table in HTML. If the BORDER attribute is present, the browser displays the table with a border.
<CAPTION> </CAPTION>	defines the caption for the title of the table. The default alignment of the title is centered at the top of the table. The attribute ALIGN=BOTTOM can be used to position the caption below the table. NOTE: Any kind of markup tag can be used in the caption.
<TR> </TR>	specifies a table row within a table. You may define default attributes for the entire row: ALIGN (LEFT, CENTER, RIGHT) and/or VALIGN (TOP, MIDDLE, BOTTOM). See Table Attributes at the end of this table for more information.
<TH> </TH>	defines a table header cell. By default the text in this cell is left and centered. Table header cells may contain other attributes to determine the characteristics of the cell and/or its contents. See Table Attributes at the end of this table for more information.
<TD> </TD>	defines a table data cell. By default the text in this cell is left and centered vertically. Table data cells may contain other attributes to determine the characteristics of the cell and its contents. See Table Attributes at the end of this table for more information.

Attribute	Description
ALIGN (LEFT, CENTER, RIGHT)	Horizontal alignment of text in the cell.
VALIGN (TOP, MIDDLE, BOTTOM)	Vertical alignment of text in the cell.
COLSPAN= <i>n</i>	The number (<i>n</i>) of columns the cell spans.
ROWSPAN= <i>n</i>	The number (<i>n</i>) of rows the cell spans.
NOWRAP	Turn off word wrapping in the cell.

Form

Forms allow the user to enter information. For example, you can use forms to collect user's names and email addresses. Forms begin with the tag <FORM> and end with </FORM>.

```
<FORM ACTION="path/script.pl" METHOD="method">
.....
</FORM>
```

Two attributes you should type for your form are the Form Action and Form Method.

```
<FORM ACTION="http://www.abc.com/cgi-bin/login.pl" METHOD="post">
```

Input

You can use "input" for single line information:

```
<INPUT TYPE="input" NAME=name SIZE=##>
```

For example:

```
<INPUT TYPE="input" NAME="email" SIZE=26>Your Email Address
<INPUT TYPE="input" NAME="name" SIZE=26>Your Name
<INPUT TYPE="input" NAME="subject" SIZE=26>Subject
```

Here is what the result shows:

<input type="text"/>	"email" size="26"> Your Email Address
<input type="text"/>	"firstname" size="26"> Your Name
<input type="text"/>	"subject" size="26"> Subject

The value of size is in characters, so "SIZE=26" means the width of the text box is 26 characters.

Text Area

Text Area can be as big as you'd like. Text Area begins with <TEXTAREA NAME=name ROWS=## COLS=##> and end with </TEXTAREA>. For example:

```
<TEXTAREA Rows=2 Cols=25 NAME="comments"></TEXTAREA>
```

The result is:

```
"</span>
class="c
name=<sp
class="c
class="c
```

Radio Button

You can use radio buttons to ask a question with one answer. For example, if you wanted to ask "Which picture do you like?" and you wanted to have the options "monkey", "flower", "girl", "building", you would type:

```
<INPUT TYPE="radio" checked NAME="picture" VALUE="monkey">Monkey<P>
<INPUT TYPE="radio" NAME="picture" VALUE="flower">Flower<P>
<INPUT TYPE="radio" NAME="picture" VALUE="girl">Girl<P>
<INPUT TYPE="radio" NAME="picture" VALUE="building">Building<P>
```

The Result is:

<input checked="" type="radio"/>	"picture" type="radio" checked value="monkey">
<input type="radio"/>	"picture" type="radio" value="flower"> Flower
<input type="radio"/>	"picture" type="radio" value="girl"> Girl
<input type="radio"/>	"picture" type="radio" value="building"> Build

Check Box

Checkboxes let the user check things from a list. The form is:

```
<INPUT TYPE="checkbox" NAME="name" VALUE="text">
```

Notice that the difference between check boxes and radio buttons is that any number of check boxes can be checked at one time while only one radio button can be checked at a time. For example, if you wanted to ask "Which pictures do you like?" and you allow any number of check boxes to be checked at one time, you would type:

```
<INPUT TYPE="checkbox" NAME="picture" VALUE="monkey">Monkey<P>
<INPUT TYPE="checkbox" NAME="picture" VALUE="flower">Flower<P>
<INPUT TYPE="checkbox" NAME="picture" VALUE="girl">Girl<P>
<INPUT TYPE="checkbox" NAME="picture" VALUE="building">Building<P>
```

The result is:

Which picture do you like?

<input type="checkbox"/>	"picture" type="checkbox" value="monkey"> Monkey
<input type="checkbox"/>	"picture" type="checkbox" value="flower"> Flower
<input type="checkbox"/>	"picture" type="checkbox" value="girl"> Girl
<input type="checkbox"/>	"picture" type="checkbox" value="building"> Building

Submit and Reset

Other button types include submit and reset. "submit" is the button the user presses to send in the form. "reset" clears the entire form so the user can start over. For example:

```
<INPUT TYPE="submit" NAME="submit" VALUE="Send">
<INPUT TYPE="reset" NAME="reset" VALUE="Clear">
```

The result is:

```

"submit" type="submit" value="Send">
```

Password

This type allows users to type in text but instead of displaying the text, type asterisks are displayed instead:

```
<INPUT TYPE="password" NAME="pass" SIZE="20">
```

Pull-Down Menu

You can ask a question with only one answer is by using a pull-down menu. For example:

```
How old are you?
<SELECT NAME="age">
<OPTION>1-15
<OPTION SELECTED >16-21
<OPTION>22-30
<OPTION>31-45
<OPTION>46-65
<OPTION>66-80
<OPTION>81-up
</SELECT>
```

The result is:

```
How old are you?
16-21
```

Scroll-Down Menu

There are two kinds of scroll-down menus. One is that you can only select one item:

```
How old are you?
<SELECT NAME="age" SIZE=5>
<OPTION VALUE="1-15">1-15
<OPTION VALUE="16-21">16-21
<OPTION VALUE="22-30">22-30
<OPTION VALUE="31-45">31-45
<OPTION VALUE="46-65">46-65
<OPTION VALUE="66-80">66-80
<OPTION VALUE="81-up">81-up
</SELECT>
```

The result is:

```
How old are you?
"1-15">1-15
```

The other menu is that you can select one or more items by holding down the Ctrl key. For example:

```

What is your favorite thing?
(Hold <i>shift</i> to select more than one)
<SELECT NAME="reading" MULTIPLE size="3">reading
<OPTION VALUE="sports">sports
<OPTION VALUE="travelling">travelling
<OPTION VALUE="music">music
<OPTION VALUE="cooking">cooking
<OPTION VALUE="shopping">shopping
<OPTION VALUE="talking">talking
</SELECT><P>

```

The point is "*multiple*".

Frame

With frames, you can put a number of HTML pages into a single window. Each frame can display a page. Frames start and end with the `<FRAMESET>` and `</FRAMESET>` tags. The `<FRAMESET>` tag can have two attributes, `ROWS` and `COLS`, to define how big the frames will be. For example:

```

<html>
<head><title></title></head>
<frameset rows="64,*">
<frame name="banner" scrolling="no" noresize
      target="contents" src="top.htm">
<frameset cols="150,*">
<frame name="contents" target="main"
      src="menu.htm">
<frame name="main" src="home.htm">
</frameset>
</frameset>
<noframes>
<body>
<p>This page uses frames, but your browser doesn't
support them.</p>
</body>
</noframes>
</frameset>
</html>

```

Let's explain each element:

`rows="64,*"` means that the first frame will take up 64 rows of the window and the second frame will take up the rest. An asterisk means that the frame will take up whatever space is left. You can use percentage to replace length. For example: `cols="30%,60%"`

`<frame>` defines each individual frame.

`name="..."` gives the frame a name.

`src="..."` tells which page will be loaded in the frame.

`target="..."` allows you to make links appear in specific frames or windows.

`scrolling="yes/no/auto"` allows you to control the scroll bars on the frame. "yes" forces the frame to always have scroll bars. "no" forces the frame to not have scroll bars. "auto" allows the browser to decide if scroll bars are necessary. The default value is "auto".

`noresize` allows you to keep the frame from being resizable by the viewer.

`</noframes>` is used to create a frameless alternate. When the page is viewed by a browser that does not support frames, everything EXCEPT what is between the `</noframes>` tags is ignored.

There are also some "magic" TARGETS.

"_blank" will always open the link in a new window.

"_top" will open the link in the whole page, instead of in a single frame.

"_self" makes the link open in the frame it's called from. This is useful for the `<BASE...>` tag is used.

"_parent" opens the link in the immediate frameset parent of the frame it is called from.

Example:

And, TARGET can also be added to the <FORM> tag to make the output script got to the specified frame or window.

HTML for CodeProject Articles

(Added by Chris Maunder)

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