Anchor tag in HTML

Overview

The <a> tag defines a **hyperlink**, which is used to link from one page to another.

- You must have seen that clicking on a link opens a new page may be on the same page or another.

- These web pages are connected using links. They give us the ability to go to a different web page without each time entering its URL. These kinds of links are **external links,** i.e. they help in connecting to external web pages.

- Links can also be **internal,** which means that they will be linking the content within the same page. E.g., link to the top of the page or any link to any specific content on the page.

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

href Attribute

The most important attribute of the <a> element is the **href** attribute, which indicates the **link's destination.** In other words, the href attribute is used to address the document to link to.

Example :
<h2>Let's start Learning ! </h2>
<p> Take daily challenges at
<**a href**="http://www.codingninjas.in/students/assignments">Coding Ninjas</**a**>

Browser :

An anchor can point to any resource on the Web: an HTML page, an image, a sound file, a movie, etc. These all are known as **external links.**

NOTE : You need to remember that here also, we can provide the **relative URL** of a file as a value to href attribute. Eg: **href="/home/myPC/Documents/test.html".**

Relative and Absolute Linking

Relative linking is used to **specify local links**, i.e. link to files inside the root folder. **Absolute linking** is used to **specify outside links**, i.e. URL of the web pages.

Relative links works relative to the page. So, when a user clicks a relative link, the browser looks for the location of the file relative to the current page.

Four situation arises in this case:-

- **File is present in the same folder** - In this case, the name of the file is provided. Eg: Click Me , will look for the file inside the same folder.

- **File is present in the subfolder** - In this case, the name of the file provided is preceded with the folder names according to hierarchy.
  Eg: Click Me , will move to the 'subfolder' folder, then to 'down' folder and look for the file inside it.

- **File is present somewhere in the parent folder** - In this case, to move one folder above use '../'
  Eg: Click Me, will move to the parent folder and look for the file inside it.

- **File is present in another subfolder of the parent folder** - This case covers the above two cases.
  Eg: Click Me, will move to the parent folder, then to folder named 'subfolder' and look for the file inside it.

Absolute links provide the complete web address of the web page where you want to go. Eg: < a href="https://www.codingninjas.in/"> Click Me , will make the browser directly go to the specified URL.

target Attribute

With the target attribute, you can define where the **linked document will be opened**.

The target attribute has the following values:
- **_self :** load the URL into the current tab itself. This is the default.
- **_blank :** load the URL into a new tab or browser window.
- **_parent :** load the URL into the parent browsing context. If there is no parent, this behaves the same as _self.
- **_top :** load the URL into the top-level browsing context. If there is no parent, this behaves the same as _self.

The line below will open the document in a new browser window:

```
<a href="https://www.codingninjas.com/" target="_blank" > Coding Ninjas </a>
```

NOTE : By default, the linked page will be displayed in the current browser window.