Week one: Practical Exercise two

Creating your first basic web page

**Step one**

Open up the text editor that you located in the previous exercise.

**Step two**

Enter the markup below and press enter:

|  |
| --- |
| <!DOCTYPE html> |

This is known as the doctype, which is short for Document Type Definition. This doctype tells the browser that we are using the HTML5 version and to interpret the HTML and CSS code according to W3C standards. Even browsers that don’t presently support HTML5 will enter into standards mode, which means they’ll interpret the long established parts of HTML in an HTML5-compliant way, while ignoring new features of HTML5 they don’t support. It must be the first item on a web page, appearing before any spacing or carriage returns.

**Step three**

Enter the following:

|  |
| --- |
| <html lang="en">  </html> |

This is the HTML element with an attribute called lang. The lang attribute is used to set the document’s language - in this case en for English. The HTML element is the outermost “container” of our web page; everything else (apart from the doctype) is kept within the HTML tags.

**Step four**

Inside the html element, press the spacebar twice to indent the markup, and enter the following:

|  |
| --- |
| <head>  </head> |

There are two major sections inside the HTML element: the head and the body. This is the head element, this contains information *about* the page, but no information that will be displayed on the page itself.

**Step five**

Inside the head element, press the spacebar twice to indent your markup, and enter the following:

|  |
| --- |
| <meta charset="utf-8">  <title>My first web page</title> |

In the example above, the meta tag tells the browser which character set to use - specifically, UTF-8, which includes the characters needed for web pages in just about any written language.

The title element tells the browser what to display in its title bar.

**Step six**

Underneath the head closing tag, press the spacebar twice to indent, and enter the following:

|  |
| --- |
| <body>  </body> |

Everything inside the body element is shown inside the main browser window.

**Step seven**

Inside the body element, press the spacebar twice to indent the markup, and enter the following:

|  |
| --- |
| <h1>Welcome to my first webpage!</h1>  <p>This is a paragraph.</p>  <p>This is another paragraph.</p> |

Here we have added the main heading element and two paragraph elements.

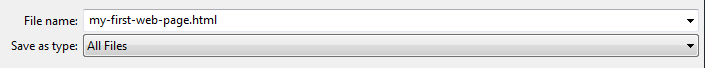
This is what the final markup should look like inside your text editor:

|  |
| --- |
| <!DOCTYPE html>  <html lang="en">  <head>  <meta charset="utf-8">  <title>My first web page</title>  </head>  <body>  <h1>Welcome to my first webpage!</h1>  <p>This is a paragraph.</p>  <p>This is another paragraph.</p>  </body>  </html> |

**Step eight**

If you’re using Notepad on Windows:

* Go to the **File** menu and select **Save as…**
* You will need to save this file inside the **Girl Geeks website** folder we created earlier.
* Save this file as **my-first-web-page.html**
* Make sure that the **Save as type** drop down has **All Files** selected.



If you’re using TextEdit on a Mac, first make sure that you’re in plain text mode (see exercise one handout), and then:

1. Go to the **File** menu and select **Save...**
2. You will need to save this file inside the **week one** folder we created in step one of this exercise.
3. Save this file as **my-first-web-page.html**

**Step nine**

Now, to see how it looks in the browser. There are two ways you can view your saved web page.

Either:

1. Open the Google Chrome browser that we installed in the previous exercise.
2. Go to the **File** menu and select **Open File…**
3. Then open the file **my-first-web-page.html**

Or:

1. Go directly to the **my-first-web-page.html** file, right click and select **Open With** Google Chrome.

