6
ADDING LINKS

OVERVIEW

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Adding Links

`<a> </a>`

`<a` `href="URL"`**`>`**`Link text or image`**`</a>`**

The **href** attribute provides the location (URL) of the resource.

You can link to any resource:

- HTML documents
- Images
- Movies
- PDFs
- More!

href Attributes

- **Absolute URLs** begin with the protocol (ex: **http://**).

- **Relative URLs** provide the path to a file on the same server as the document containing the link (ex: **/directory/document.html**).

- Long URLs can make the markup look complicated, but the structure is the same:

Opening anchor tag

```
<a href="https://www.amazon.com/Bequet-Gourmet-Caramel-24oz
-Celtic/dp/B00GZEU10Y/ref=sr_1_1_a_it?ie=UTF8&qid=1467055107&s
r=8-1&keywords=bequet">Bequet Caramels</a>
```

URL   Linked text   Closing anchor tag

External Links

- **External links** go to pages that are **not** on your server.

- An absolute URL is required, including "**http://**"

```
<li><a href="http://www.foodnetwork.com">The Food
Network</a></li>
```
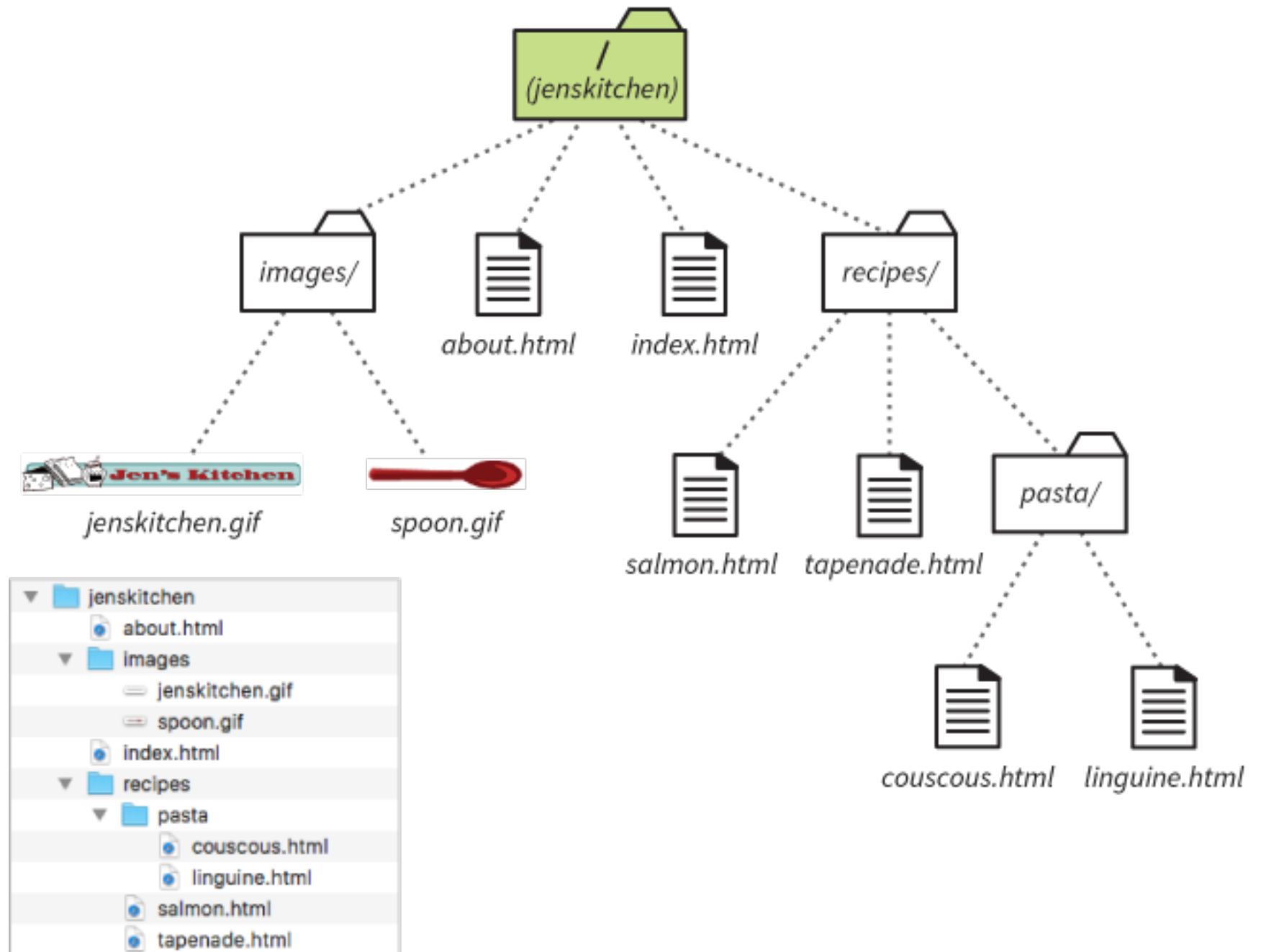
Linking on Your Own Site

- When no protocol is provided, the browser looks on the current server for the resource.

- A **relative pathname** describes how to get to the resource starting from the current document.

- Pathnames follow UNIX syntax conventions.

Example Server Directory Structure

The following relative pathname discussions are based on this site structure.

The root directory is called *jenskitchen*.

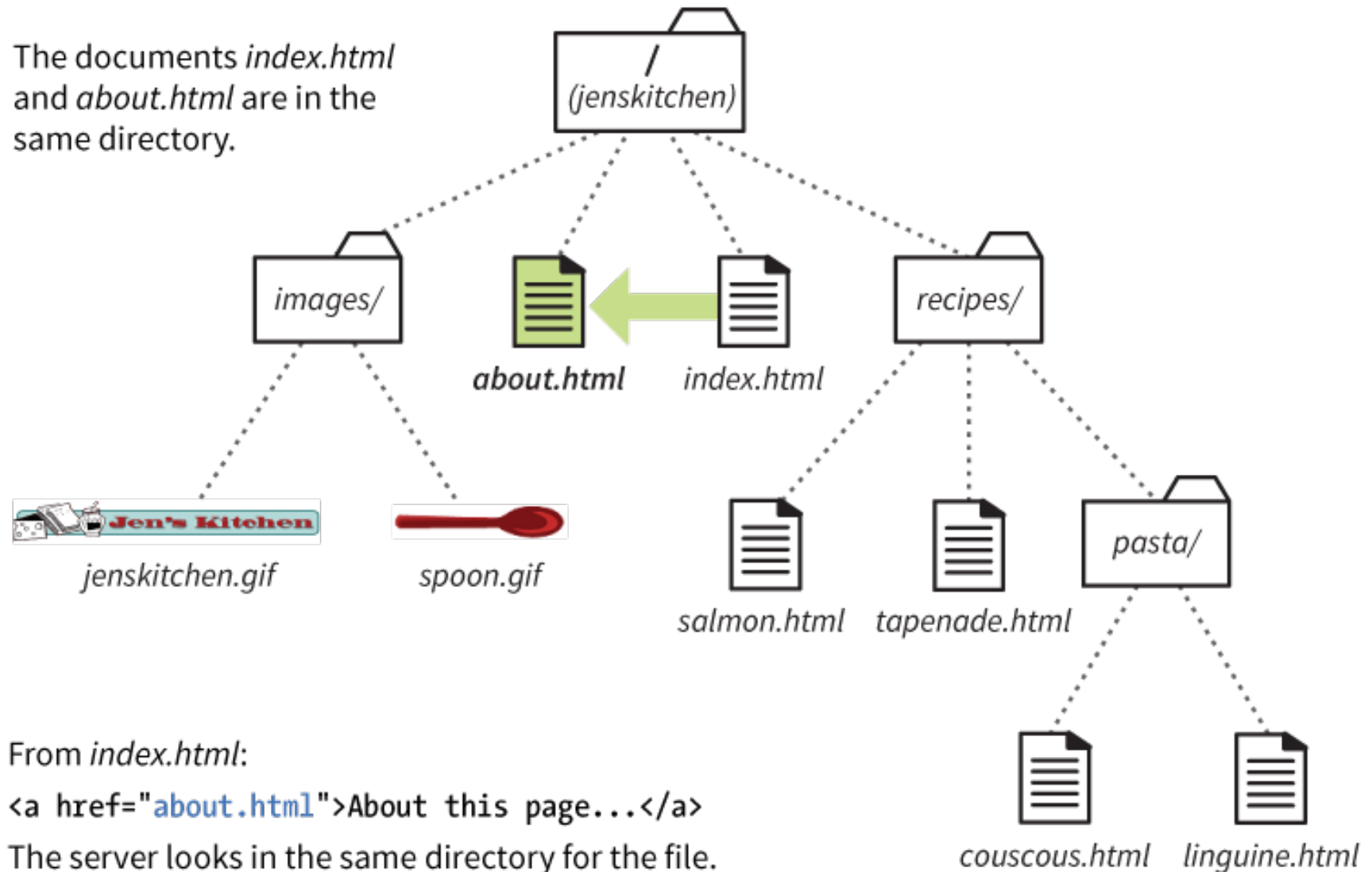**How it looks in the MacOS Finder**

Linking in the Same Directory

When the linked document is in the same directory as the current document, just provide its filename:

`href="`**`about.html`**`"`

The documents *index.html* and *about.html* are in the same directory.

From *index.html*:

`<a href="about.html">About this page...</a>`

The server looks in the same directory for the file.

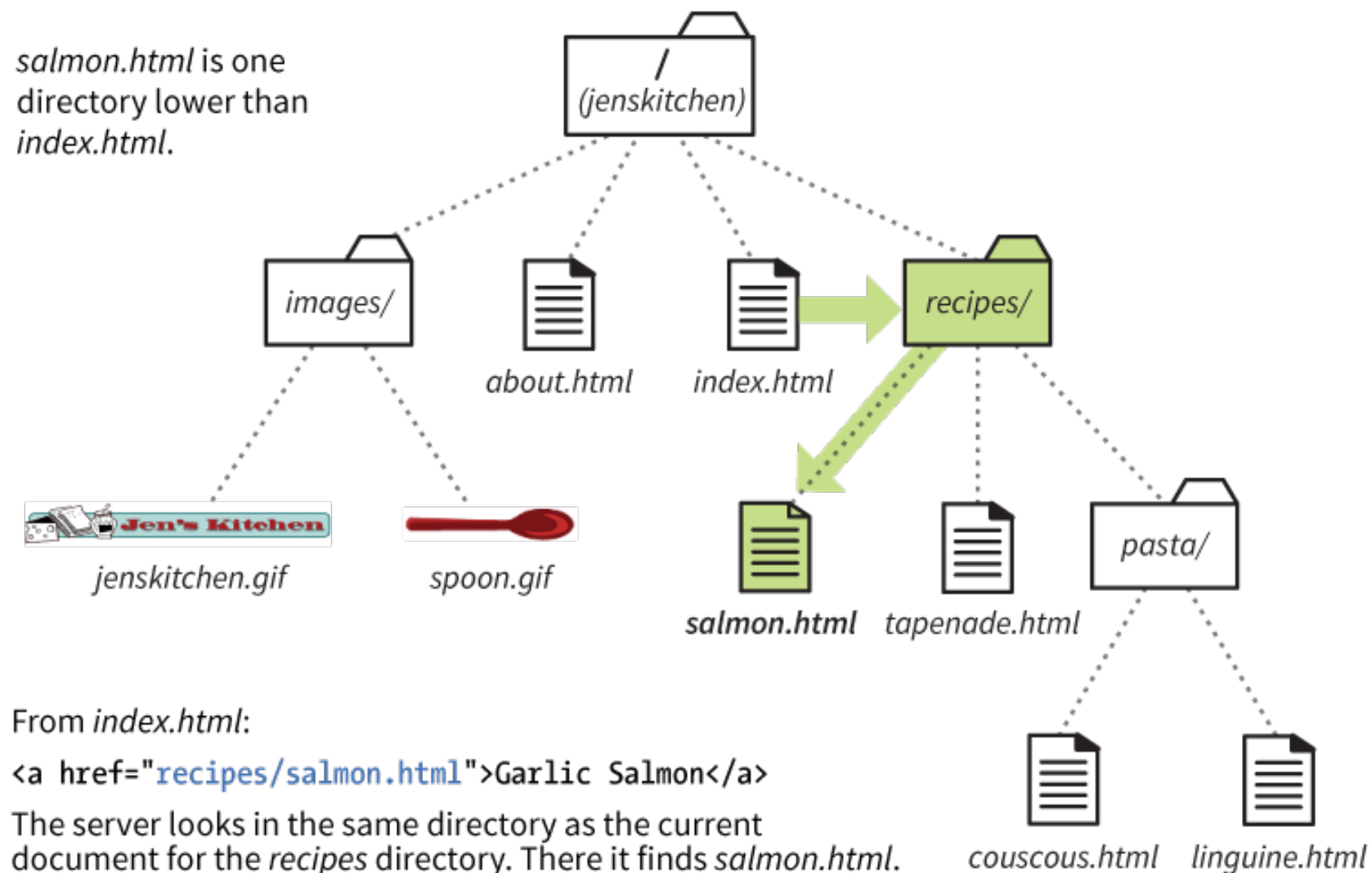# Linking into a Lower Directory

If the linked file is in a directory, include the directory name in the path.

```
href="recipes/salmon.html"
```

salmon.html is one directory lower than index.html.

From *index.html*:

```
<a href="recipes/salmon.html">Garlic Salmon</a>
```

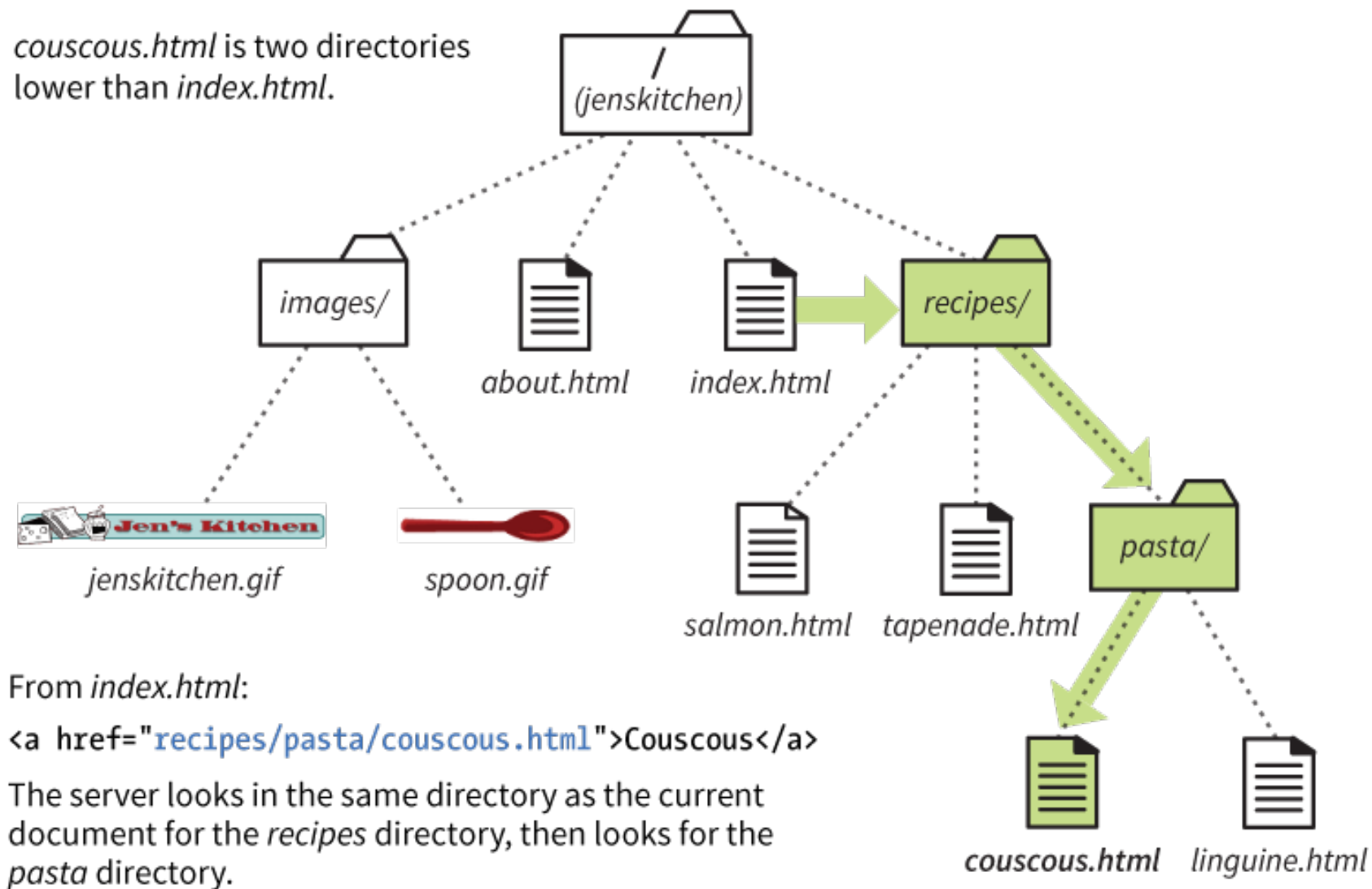The server looks in the same directory as the current document for the *recipes* directory. There it finds *salmon.html*.

Linking into Two Directories

Include each subdirectory name in the path to the linked document:

href="**recipes/pasta/couscous.html**"

couscous.html is two directories lower than index.html.

/ (jenskitchen)

images/

about.html   index.html

recipes/

jenskitchen.gif   spoon.gif

salmon.html   tapenade.html

pasta/

couscous.html   linguine.html

From index.html:

Couscous

The server looks in the same directory as the current document for the recipes directory, then looks for the pasta directory.
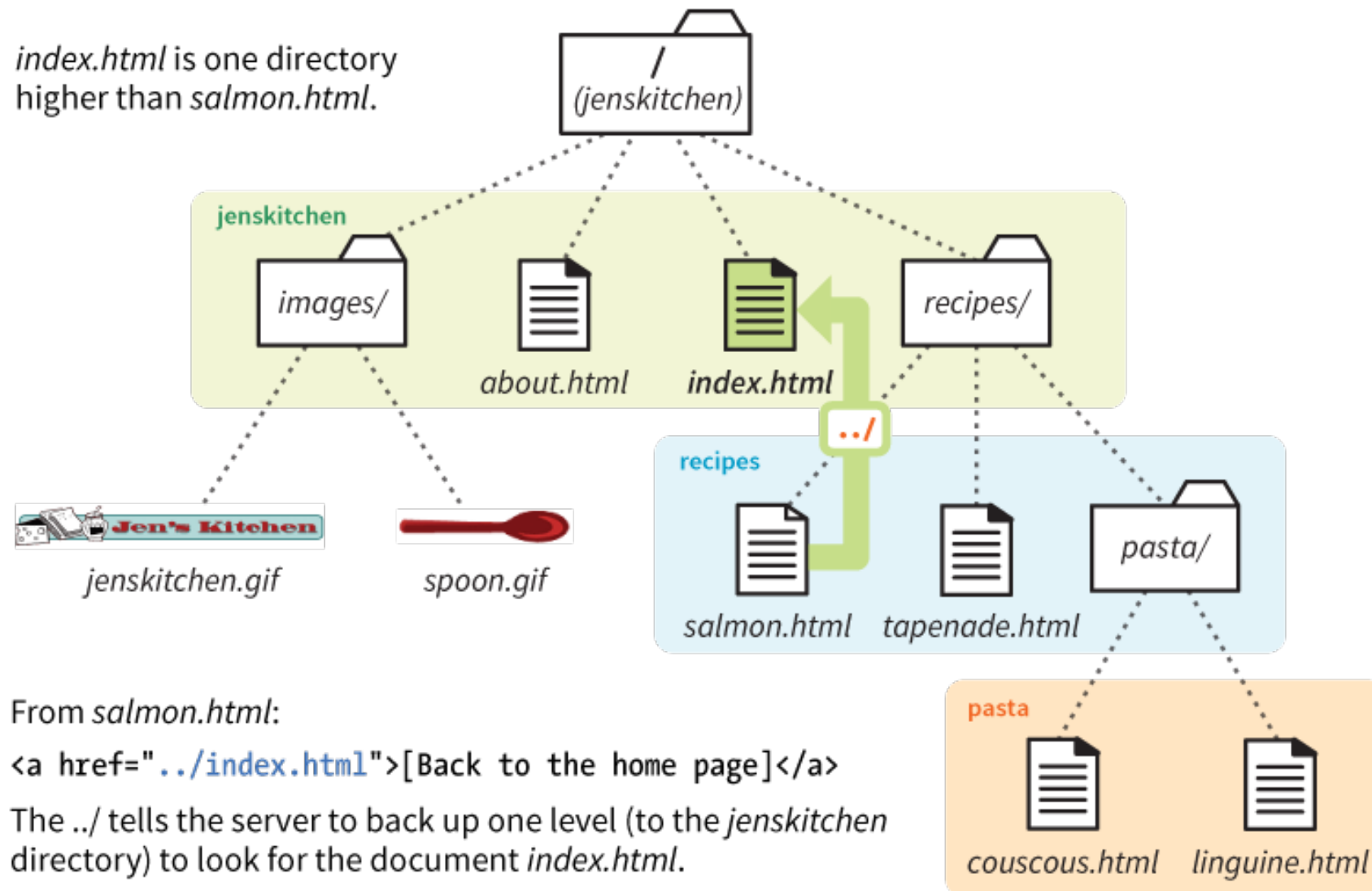
Linking to a Higher Directory

To back up a level, the **../** stands in for the name of the higher directory:

`href="`**`../index.html`**`"`

index.html is one directory higher than salmon.html.

jenskitchen

/ (jenskitchen)

jenskitchen

images/

about.html

index.html

recipes/

../

jenskitchen.gif

spoon.gif

recipes

salmon.html   tapenade.html

pasta/

From salmon.html:

`<a href="../index.html">[Back to the home page]</a>`

The ../ tells the server to back up one level (to the jenskitchen directory) to look for the document index.html.

pasta

couscous.html   linguine.html
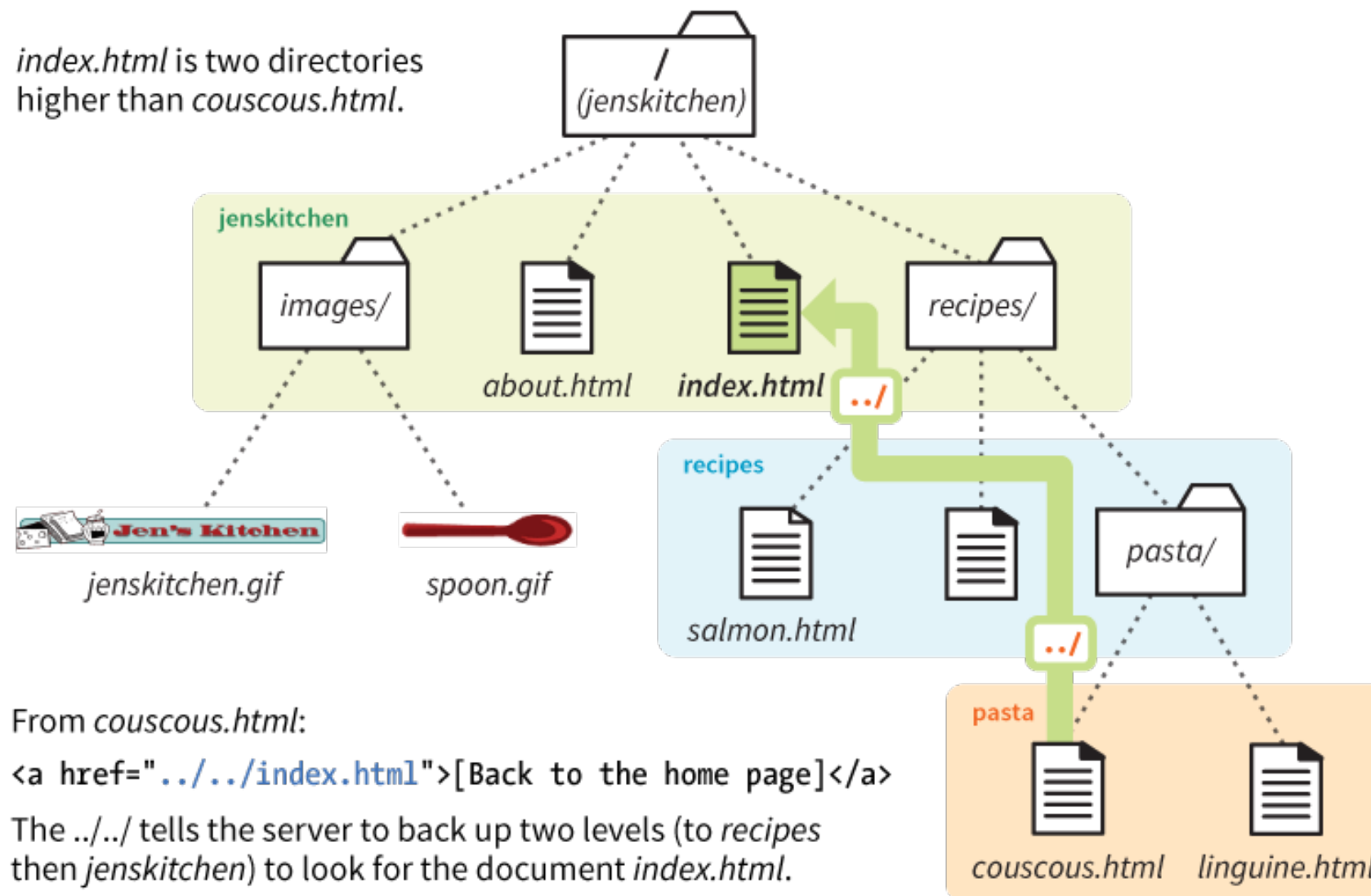
Linking Up Two Directory Levels

Include a **../** for each level you need to back up to:

`href="`**`../../index.html`**`"`

index.html is two directories higher than couscous.html.

/
(jenskitchen)

jenskitchen

images/

about.html index.html ../

recipes/

jenskitchen.gif spoon.gif

recipes

salmon.html ../

pasta/

pasta

couscous.html linguine.html

From couscous.html:

`<a href="../../index.html">[Back to the home page]</a>`

The ../../ tells the server to back up two levels (to recipes then jenskitchen) to look for the document index.html.

Site Root Relative Paths

Starting the path with a slash **/** means the pathname starts at the root directory. You don't need to write the name of the directory.

```
href="/recipes/salmon.html"
```

NOTE: Site root relative URLs are more flexible because they work from any document on the site.

DOWNSIDE: They won't work on your own computer because the / will be relative to your hard drive. You'll need to test it on the actual web server.
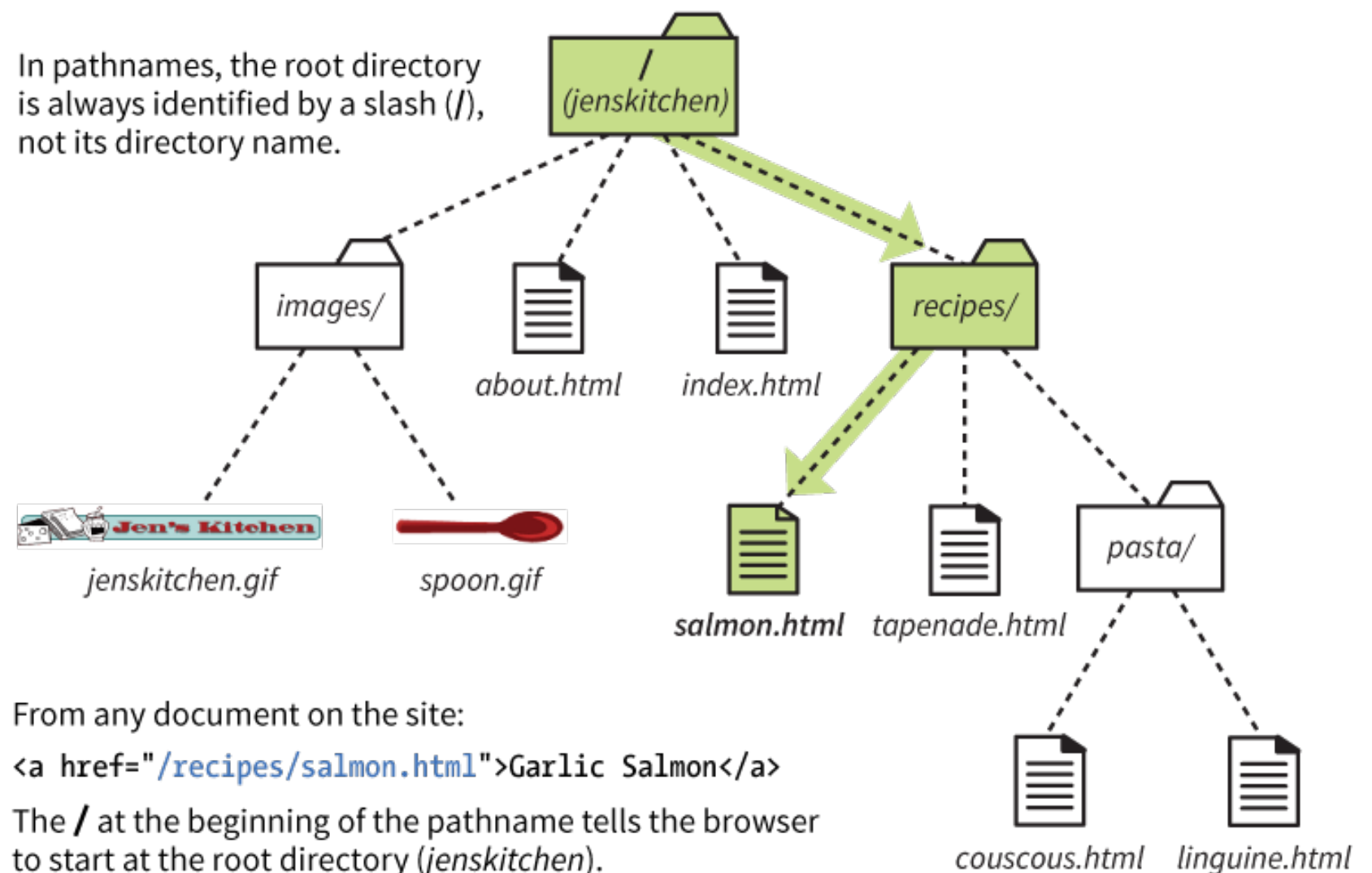

In pathnames, the root directory is always identified by a slash (/), not its directory name.

From any document on the site:

```
<a href="/recipes/salmon.html">Garlic Salmon</a>
```

The **/** at the beginning of the pathname tells the browser to start at the root directory (*jenskitchen*).

Image src Pathnames

Relative pathnames are also commonly used to point to image files with the **src** attribute:
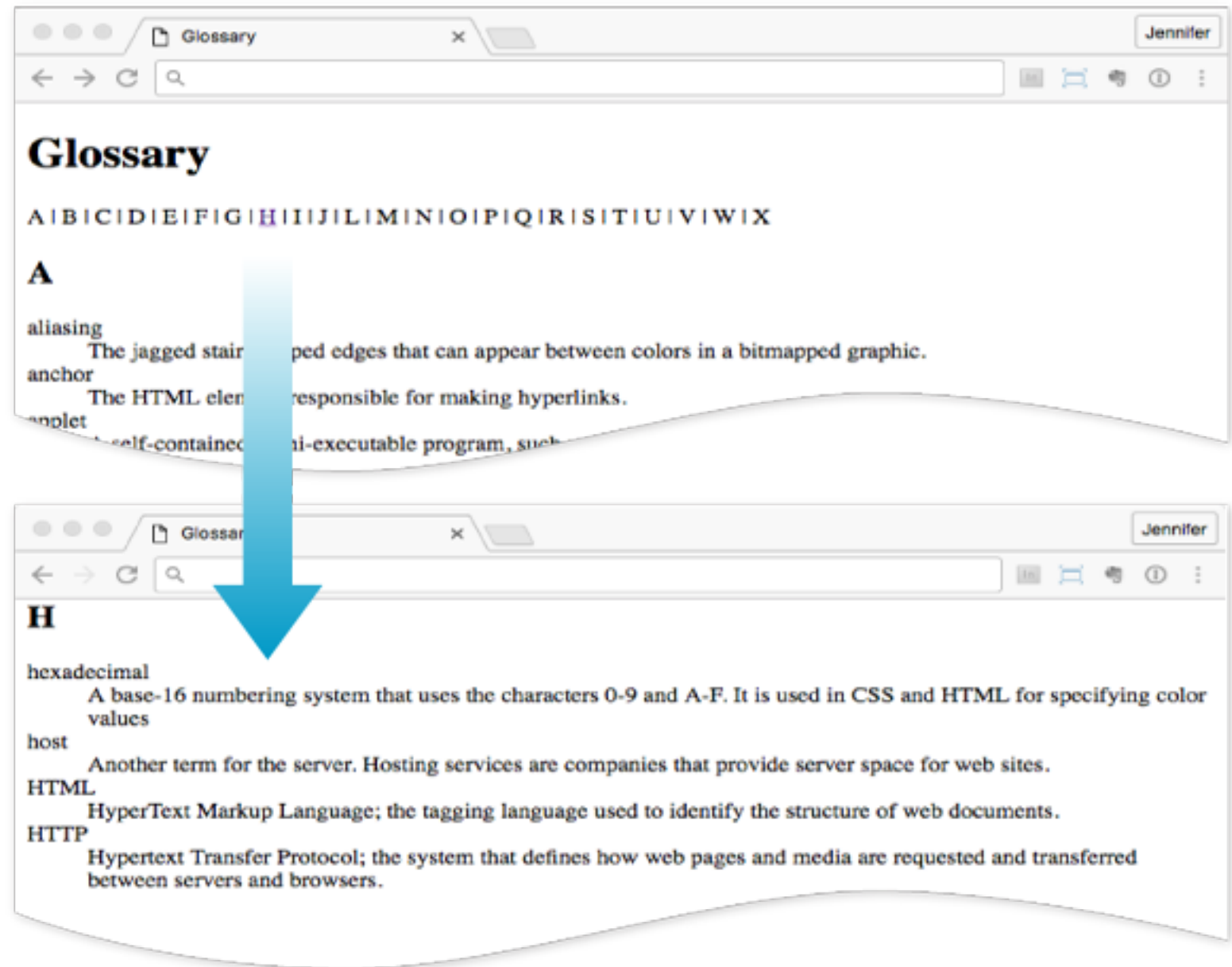
```
<img src="/images/icons/next.svg" alt="next">
```

Linking Within a Page (Fragments)

Linking to a specific point on a web page is called linking to a document fragment.

This is useful for providing links down to content from the top of a long document.

Linking to a Fragment

For example, to create a link from the letter H in a list at the top of the page to the "H" heading farther down in the document:

Step 1: Identify the target destination.
Use the **id** attribute to give the target element a unique name:

```
<h2 id="startH">H</h2>
```

Step 2: Link to the target (#).
The **#** symbol before the name indicates that the link goes to a fragment:

```
<p>… F | G | <a href="#startH">H</a> | I | … </p>
```

Targeting Browser Windows

The **target** attribute in the a tag tells the browser the name of the window in which you want the linked document to open:

```
<a href="recipes.html" target="_blank">Recipe book</a>
```

target="_blank"
Always opens a new browser window.

target="name"
Opens a new window with that name and then opens all subsequent targeted links with that name in the same window.

It may also open in an embedded frame (iframe) with that name.

Mail Links

Use the "mailto" protocol to make a linked email address open in a mail program:

```
<a href="mailto:wonderwoman@example.com">Email
WonderWoman</a> (wonderwoman@example.com)
```

NOTE: Most browsers are configured to open the computer's primary email program, but this may not work for some users. Be sure the email address is included on the page and use the `mailto` link as progressive enhancement.