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HTML Links

[‹ Previous]   [Next ›]

Links are found in nearly all web pages. Links allow users to click their way from page to page.

HTML Links - Hyperlinks

HTML links are hyperlinks.

You can click on a link and jump to another document.

When you move the mouse over a link, the mouse arrow will turn into a little hand.

Note: A link does not have to be text. It can be an image or any other HTML element.

HTML Links - Syntax

Hyperlinks are defined with the HTML `<a>` tag:

```
<a href="url">Link text</a>
```

Example

```
<a href="https://www.w3schools.com/html/">Visit our HTML tutorial</a>
```

Try it Yourself »

The `href` attribute specifies the destination address (https://www.w3schools.com/html/) of the link.

The **link text** is the visible part (Visit our HTML tutorial).

Clicking on the link text will send you to the specified address.

Note: Without a forward slash at the end of subfolder addresses, you might generate two requests to the server. Many servers will automatically add a forward slash to the end of the address, and then create a new request.

Local Links

The example above used an absolute URL (a full web address).

A local link (link to the same web site) is specified with a relative URL (without https://www....).

Example

```
<a href="html_images.asp">HTML Images</a>
```

HTML Links - The target Attribute

The `target` attribute specifies where to open the linked document.

The `target` attribute can have one of the following values:

- `_blank` - Opens the linked document in a new window or tab
- `_self` - Opens the linked document in the same window/tab as it was clicked (this is default)
- `_parent` - Opens the linked document in the parent frame
- `_top` - Opens the linked document in the full body of the window
- *framename* - Opens the linked document in a named frame

This example will open the linked document in a new browser window/tab:

Example

```
<a href="https://www.w3schools.com/" target="_blank">Visit W3Schools!</a>
```

Tip: If your webpage is locked in a frame, you can use `target="_top"` to break out of the frame:

Example

```
<a href="https://www.w3schools.com/html/" target="_top">HTML5 tutorial!</a>
```

HTML Links - Image as Link

It is common to use images as links:

Example

```
<a href="default.asp">
  <img src="smiley.gif" alt="HTML tutorial"
style="width:42px;height:42px;border:0;">
</a>
```

Try it Yourself »

Note: `border:0;` is added to prevent IE9 (and earlier) from displaying a border around the image (when the image is a link).

Link Titles

The `title` attribute specifies extra information about an element. The information is most often shown as a tooltip text when the mouse moves over the element.

Example

```
<a href="https://www.w3schools.com/html/" title="Go to W3Schools HTML
section">Visit our HTML Tutorial</a>
```

Try it Yourself »

External Paths

External pages can be referenced with a full URL or with a path relative to the current web page.

This example uses a full URL to link to a web page:

Example

```
<a href="https://www.w3schools.com/html/default.asp">HTML tutorial</a>
```

Try it Yourself »

This example links to a page located in the html folder on the current web site:

Example

```
<a href="/html/default.asp">HTML tutorial</a>
```

Try it Yourself »

This example links to a page located in the same folder as the current page:

Example

```
<a href="default.asp">HTML tutorial</a>
```

Try it Yourself »

You can read more about file paths in the chapter HTML File Paths.

Chapter Summary

- Use the `<a>` element to define a link
- Use the `href` attribute to define the link address
- Use the `target` attribute to define where to open the linked document
- Use the `<img>` element (inside <a>) to use an image as a link

HTML Exercises

Test Yourself With Exercises

Exercise:

Use the correct HTML to make the text below into a link to "default.html".

>Visit our HTML tutorial.

Submit Answer »

Start the Exercise

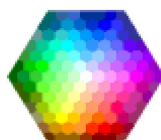# HTML Link Tags

Tag	Description
<a>	Defines a hyperlink

For a complete list of all available HTML tags, visit our HTML Tag Reference.

‹ Previous   Next ›

COLOR PICKER

HOW TO

Tabs
Dropdowns
Accordions
Side Navigation
Top Navigation
Modal Boxes
Progress Bars
Parallax
Login Form
HTML Includes
Google Maps
Range Sliders
Tooltips
Slideshow
Filter List
Sort List

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