History of the Hypertext Markup Language (HTML)

Tim Berners-Lee proposed a prototyped ENQUIRE, a system for CERN researchers so that they will be able to use it for sharing documents. In 1989, Tim Berners-Lee wrote a memo proposing an Internet-based hypertext system. Tim Berners-Lee specified HTML and wrote a browser and server software in late 1990. The first public available description of the HTML or Hypertext Markup Language was a document called “HTML tags”, first mentioned on the Internet by Tim Berners-Lee in late 1991.

* HTML 2.0 was published as IETF RFC 1866 on November 24, 1995.
* HTML 3.2 was published as a W3C Recommendation on January 14, 1997. It was the first version developed and standardized exclusively by the W3C, as the IETF had closed its HTML Working Group.
* HTML 4.0 was published as a W3C Recommendation on December 18, 1997.
* HTML 4.0 was reissued with minor edits without incrementing the version number on April 24, 1998.
* HTML 4.01 was published as a W3c Recommendation on December 24, 1999.
* HTML5 was published as a W3C Recommendation on October 28, 2014.
* HTML 5.1 was published as a W3C Recommendation on November 1, 2016.
* HTML 5.2 was published as a W3C Recommendation on December 14, 2017.

A representation of a simple HTML document:

<!DOCTYPE html>  
<html>  
<head>  
<title>Page Title</title>  
</head>  
<body>  
  
<h1>My First Heading</h1>  
<p>My first paragraph.</p>  
  
</body>  
</html>

* <!DOCTYPE hml> - is the declaration that defines the document.
* <html> - is the element that the root element of an HTML page.
* <head> - is an element that contains meta information about the document.
* <title> - is an element that specifies a title for the document.
* <body> - is an element that contains the visible page content.
* <h1> - is an element that defines a large heading.
* <p> - is an element that defines a paragraph.

HTML tags are element name that is surrounded by angle brackets like this:

<tagname> content of the tags </tagname>