

LEARN TO

**BUILD A
WEBSITE**

IN 30
Days

By Zell Liew

Introduction to the Book

Hey there! It is very heartening to see you over here! In this ebook, you will get to learn about a simple and effective roadmap to begin learning about creating a website in 1 month.

After you are done with this short little ebook, you are well on your way to creating almost any web page you want. You will never look at any webpage the same way as before and you will never feel clueless about how these beautiful looking webpages came about anymore.

I just want to let you know that **anyone can get started on this**, and anyone can be able to create a website, as long as you stick by it long enough. Yes, anyone, **even if you did not come from a technical background**.

I was a guy without any technical background when I started to learn about creating websites, and I was able to design and create my blog just after 3 months of learning. It is an extremely simple process that just requires quite some patience. **If I can, you can do it too.**

Before we begin, I would like you to **think about why you want to learn to create a website**. Do you want to just try your hand at some code? Would you want to make it a sideline and get some income? Or do you want to make something for yourself? Anything goes. Remember the reason as it will help you stay on track when the going gets tough. These objectives can change. I initially began by just wanting to learn, but as I went along, I decided that I wanted to make something for myself, which lead to everything you see now.

So keep your objective in mind, and without further ado, let's get started.

First, Learn HTML and CSS

Everything you see on the internet is made up of codes. They are a mix of front-end languages like HTML and CSS, and backend, server side languages like PHP, Ruby, Python.

I highly recommend you to start learning HTML and CSS first before touching the rest. Here's a short little definition of what HTML and CSS are:

HTML

HyperText Markup Language (HTML) is the main *markup language for creating web pages* and other information that are displayed in a web browser

- Wikipedia

CSS

Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) is used for *describing the look and formatting of* a document written in a markup language

- Wikipedia

There are three very simple reasons why I would encourage learning HTML and CSS first before touching on other languages.

1. HTML and CSS are basic building blocks

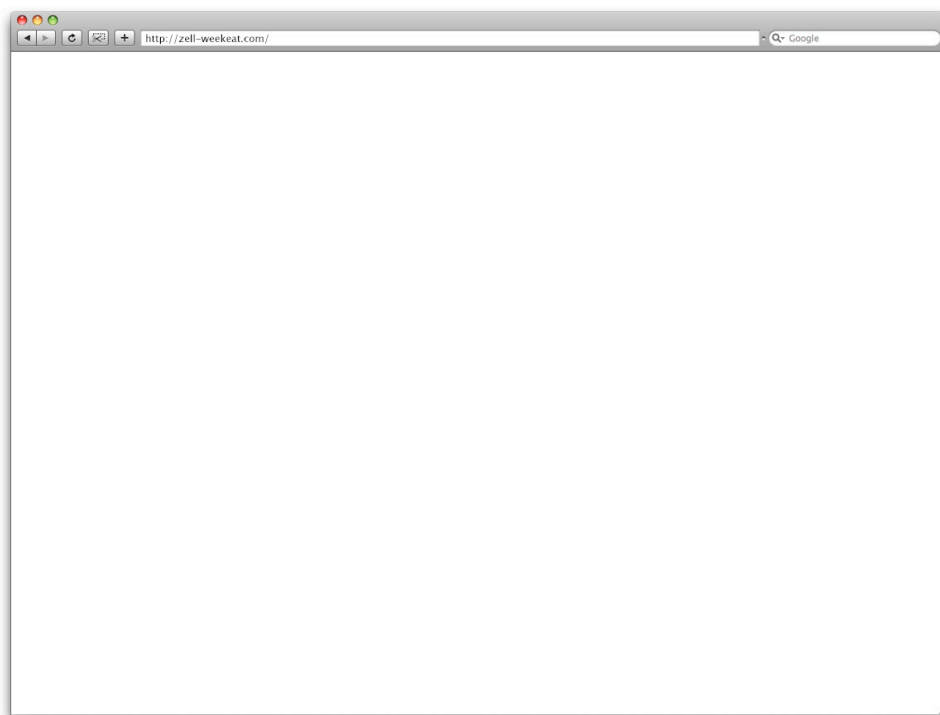
No website in the world exists without any HTML and CSS. To help you with imagining this, think of a house, or any building.

HTML refers to the building materials of the house, the concrete, iron pillars and the bricks. You know that these basic blocks are there, but you usually never see them in bare form.

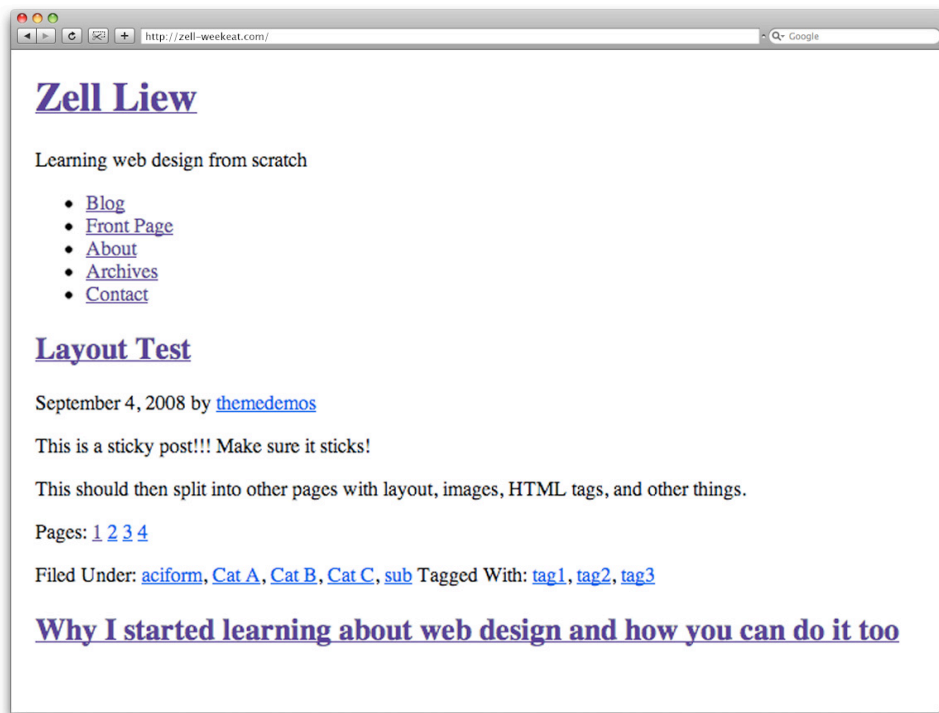
CSS acts like the paint of your walls, your flooring, tiles and other miscellaneous things that come together with the house that make it beautiful.

Designing a website is like designing your dream house. You need to envision a basic structure, and choose the paint to go along with it.

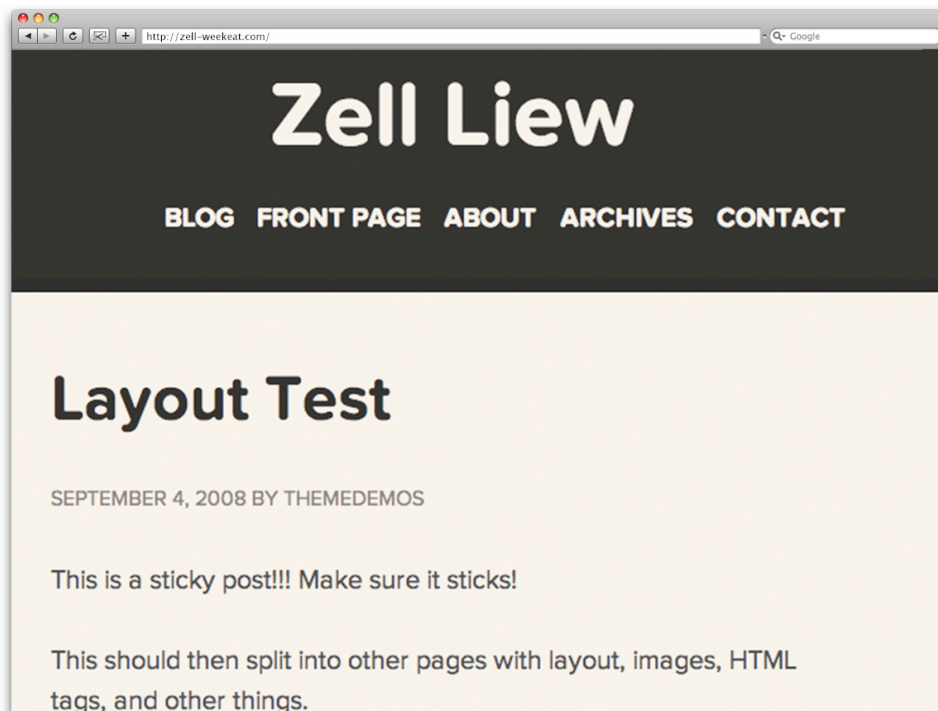
No websites can exist without any sort of markup language (usually HTML). If there ever was one, this is what it would have looked like:



HTML gives the basic structure, and displays text and content that you would like to have on the web page itself. Here is an example when only HTML is present.



Website walls are then decorated with CSS to produce the following version that you see. All websites are built with these two languages, and yes, it is possible to build visually appealing ones with just those.



2. They are extremely easy to learn

HTML and CSS are the two easiest language to learn of all. Let me give you an example to visualize how easy to learn they are, starting with HTML:

```
<h1> HTML and CSS at work </h1>
<p> This is a paragraph of HTML </p>
```

The only difference between HTML and English, or any other language, is that you have to specifically tell the computer where you would like your headers and paragraphs to be.

As for an example of CSS:

HTML and CSS at work

This is a paragraph of HTML

CSS allows you to make changes to the document and alter its appearance. You are definitely familiar with this change, because its just like altering the sizes in a word document! The only caveat is that you have to do it in a code.

The code for this example where I bolded the text and increased the font-size is as follows:

```
h1 {
font-size: 18px;
font-weight: bold;
}
```

Doesn't this look awfully alike to a bullet point list? :)

HTML and CSS is just that simple. Of course there are more to the language, but I'll leave it for later.

3. You can immediately see the results

Did I already mention this? Anyway, you can see **real time results** of what you did with HTML and CSS in your browser. Any changes you make to the CSS or HTML document is immediately reflected on the browser. This makes changing the code easy, plus fun!

Where and How do I Learn?

There are tons of materials that teach HTML and CSS online. The wealth of information can at times, lead you off that path of learning. It happened to me quite a few times while I first began to learn. I was drawn towards more complex concepts like HTML 5, CSS 3, semantics, responsive design, typography...

This list goes on.

Reading too much into advanced concepts while not getting a good grasp of the basics drastically slowed my process in learning.

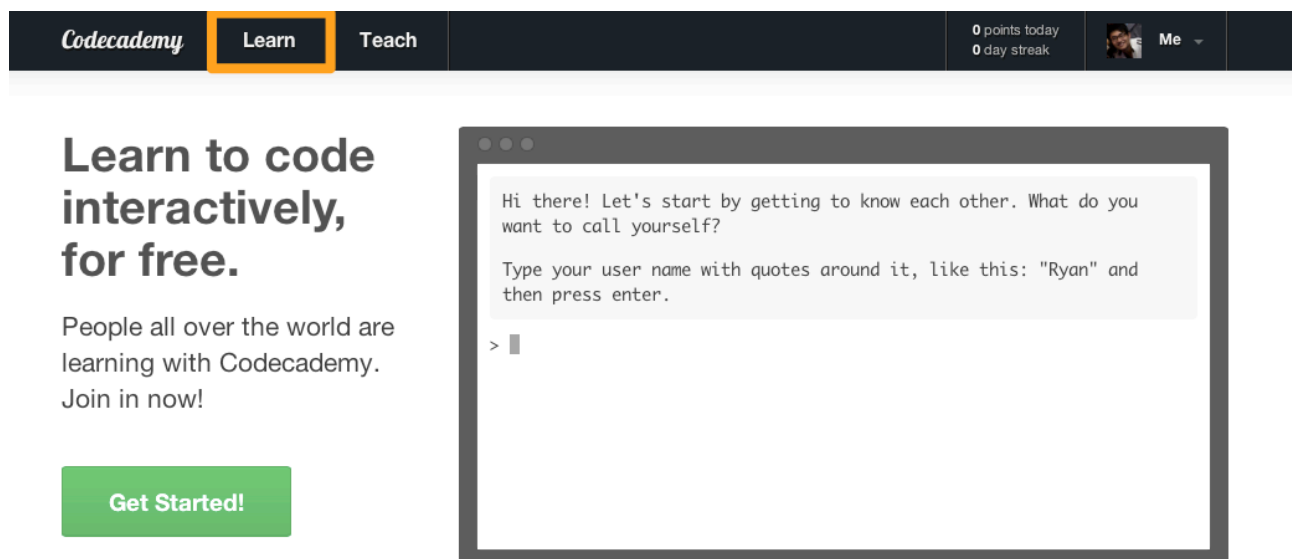
In this section, I'll try to help you focus and get you up and running in the shortest time possible by giving the steps that I would have taken if I were to learn about web design and development all over again. (Note: Times in parenthesis are estimates. Don't worry if you are a little slower than that.)

Step 1: Learn from Code Academy (1 week)

Interactive websites such as Code Academy, Treehouse and Code School lets you learn by doing. I personally prefer Code Academy over the rest **because it is free**. Why pay and learn something basic when you have an equally good resource to learn for free from? Right? Here over to [Code Academy](#).

Here's what to do on code academy:

- 1) Click on Learn at the top left corner of the webpage. Ignore the window as it is for Javascript, another language that we will touch on in future.



2) Click on the Web fundamentals track and complete the exercises within.

After you are done with the web fundamentals track, proceed on to Step 2.

IMPORTANT: do not continue with others courses on Code Academy!



The screenshot shows the Codecademy website's 'Tracks' section. The navigation bar at the top includes the Codecademy logo, 'Learn', 'Teach', and user statistics (0 points today, 0 day streak) along with a profile icon labeled 'Me'. The main heading is 'Tracks', with a subtext: 'Tracks are series of courses grouped to help you master a topic or language. Choose one to start learning!'. Below this, four tracks are listed:

- Web Fundamentals** (highlighted with an orange border):
 - Description: 'New to coding? Start here! Learn the building blocks of web development with HTML and CSS, and create your own website by the end of the course.'
 - What you'll learn...
 - How to build websites
 - HTML and CSS
 - Style and design
- PHP** (marked with a green 'NEW' badge):
 - Description: 'Write server-side scripts with PHP, the world's most popular scripting language.'
 - What you'll learn...
 - Server-side scripting
 - Web development
 - Dynamic web pages
- jQuery**:
 - Description: 'jQuery is a way to create interactive websites. You can move HTML elements around, build custom animations, and let your users affect your site with a mouse click!'
 - What you'll learn...
 - Interactive websites
 - Web animations
 - Manipulate HTML/CSS
- JavaScript**:
 - Description: 'JavaScript is a programming language that makes websites interactive.'
 - What you'll learn...
 - Programming basics
 - Develop JS apps

I personally skipped step 1 and started learning by copying from videos (Step 2) that explains how to convert a photoshop document into HTML and CSS.

Throughout this journey, I was stuck at many different areas for several times because these videos introduce many new things, and there were countless times where I ran into problems when my results looks different from what was shown on the video, and I had no idea what went wrong. It would have been a lot more smooth sailing if I was aware of Code Academy when I started.

Hence, I strongly emphasize the importance of learning from there as

everything from this point on builds up on the fundamentals that you learnt from there.

Step 2: Watch and Copy how others do it (1 - 2 weeks)

There are many blogs that let you build up your knowledge on how to create a website. My favorite of them all are [net tuts+](#) and [webdesign tuts+](#). You can find some very detailed tutorials that teach you how to code a website (with videos).

Some other great learning places are:

- [My blog](#) :)
- [1stwebdesigner](#)

There are many other articles that you may find interesting over at the websites I mentioned. Feel free to browse, but **guide your attention towards PSD to HTML tutorials**. Watch and learn from at least 1 or 2 of them. I will also be dissecting a few how to tutorials on my blog, catered specifically for you, and I'll make sure to let you know when they are up.

Step 3: Dissect a website yourself (1 week)

With the knowledge that you have gained from the previous two steps, find one website that you love (ideally one that is not responsive), and try to recreate everything from scratch.

This is the most important step of all that cannot be done if you didn't acquire the basics previously. You will bring back all the skills and knowledge that you acquired once you proceed through this step. I used the Net tuts website as my guinea pig and you can choose that too.

If you encounter any problems, shoot me an email, and I'll try to help. I'll also touch on how to troubleshoot your HTML and CSS codes in one of my blog posts.

Step 4: Create your own website (1 - 2 weeks)

The Ultimatum. Once you're done with this, you're pretty much free to do whatever you want. It can also be extremely liberating to complete this step!

Celebrate!

What next?

When you are done with this, let me know and we can move on to other aspects about web design or development, like hosting your website for all to see.

If you like to see anything on my blog, let me know of your comments and feedbacks, or just wanted to ask a question, hop right over to my contact page and shoot me an email. I'll read and answer every single one of them.

Remember: You can do it. I believe in you and await your news.

Be Awesome!

Zell