

Basic HTML – Quick reference sheet

Creating and editing HTML documents (web pages)

- HTML documents are plain text files, so can be created using any text editor (e.g. Notepad, etc.)
- Specialist “WYSIWYG” HTML editors also exist (e.g. Dreamweaver, FrontPage)
- For this course we will use a text editor called TextPad, which has some useful functions for HTML editing that Notepad does not.

Basic document structure

- Documents start with a `<!doctype...>` statement, followed by a header and a text body, all enclosed in `<html>...</html>`
- The header is enclosed in `<head>...</head>`
- The text body is enclosed in `<body>...</body>`
- Comments are written as `<!-- A comment -->`

Example document

```
<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD HTML 4.01 Transitional//EN"
    "http://www.w3.org/TR/html4/loose.dtd">

<html>
  <head>
    <title>Page title</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    ... Page content ...
  </body>
</html>
```

Structural Elements

Paragraphs

```
<p>...</p>
```

Section headings

Put these between paragraphs, not within them.

```
<h1>...</h1>
...
<h6>...</h6>
```

Lists

All lists contain list items (`...`)

Numbered (ordered) list:

```
<ol>
  <li>...</li>
  <li>...</li>
</ol>
```

Bulleted (unordered) list:

```
<ul>
  <li>...</li>
  <li>...</li>
</ul>
```

Changing the page background

The `<body>` tag can specify the background colour (see “font colour” below) and background image:

```
<body bgcolor="#000000">
<body background="clouds.gif">
```

Formatting Elements

Bold type

```
<b>...</b>
or
<strong>...</strong>
```

Italic type

```
<i>...</i>
or
<em>...</em>
```

Underlined type

```
<u>...</u>
(avoid using this - underlined text usually
indicates a link)
```

Line break

```
<br />
```

Horizontal rule

```
<hr />
```

Adding images to a page

```

```

Aligning sections of a page

`<div align="left|center|right">...</div>` (note US spelling of 'center!')

Links

`Link text - this could also be an image`

Special characters

`<` (< less-than) `>` (>greater-than) `&` (& ampersand) `"` (" quote)

Changing fonts

NOTE: Use of the `` tag is generally discouraged, as you have to use it over and over in your pages to get the look you want. It is deprecated in the HTML 4.0 specification in favour of *styles* and *stylesheets*, and so may become obsolete in future versions of HTML.

In the second week we will cover the use of *styles and stylesheets* to apply consistent formatting to elements throughout a page. For the time being, use the following (sparingly!):

Font faces

Not all browsers have all fonts, so it is best practice to specify a list of fonts. The browser will use the first font in the list that it has available.

The following examples end with a *family* of fonts, so that if none of the listed fonts can be found by the browser, it can pick a font from the relevant family to use.

Sans-serif fonts:

`...`

Fonts with serifs:

`...`

Monospaced fonts:

`...`

Font size

The absolute size of a font can be specified as a number from 1 to 7:

`This is quite small text`

However, setting absolute size is discouraged. It is better to set the relative size of fonts using a signed (+ or -) number to change the size of a font relative to the default font size set by the browser:

`This is larger text`

`This is small text`

Font colour

Font colour can be set either using names for common colours, or by using a hexadecimal coding of the RGB values that allows any colour to be specified.

`This is red text`

`This is also red text`

Only 16 colour names are supported by the HTML 4.0 standard (aqua, black, blue, fuchsia, gray, green, lime, maroon, navy, olive, purple, red, silver, teal, white, and yellow). Although most browsers support a much longer list than this (http://www.w3schools.com/html/html_colornames.asp), you should use the hexadecimal values for colours other than these 16.

Fonts: putting it all together

All of these attributes can be put together in a single `` tag:

`Big, green, monospaced text`

`Small, dark blue, Arial text`