LEARNING HTML

You must have browsed through many Web pages on the Internet. Have you ever thought of how these ‘pages’ are made? Every Web page that you visit, is actually made up of plain text, just like your word-processing documents. It is simply a collection of the English alphabets. There are no pictures, no sounds and no animations. If you look at the Source Code for any Web page, you will see different HTML commands (within Angle brackets) all through the document. These Commands are called Tags and tell the Browser how to ‘display’ the Text, the Layout and the Images on the Web page. Your Browser then ‘reads’ this Code and ‘displays’, these ‘action packed’ Web pages in front of you. Are you interested? Well, in this section, you will learn the basics of HTML, so get ready to take the world by storm.

THE HTML LANGUAGE

Viewing the Source Code of the Web Page

The Web pages are written in the HTML program. To understand this program, you should ‘view’ the Source code of a Web page. To do this, just open that Web page in your Web browser. If you are using Internet Explorer, open the View menu from the Menu bar and click on the Source option. If you are using Netscape Navigator as your Browser, you can choose the Page Source from the View menu.

You will see a lot of Tags, most of these Tags will be in ‘pairs’. One of these Pairs is for the Opening tag and the other is the Closing tag. Let us understand this, with the help of an Example of “making the Text bold”. In this, when you want to make the Text bold, you have to use the Opening tag as <B> and the Closing tag as </B>. You will see that the Opening tags and the Closing tags are the same except for the ‘/’ mark in the Closing tag. In the above case, when any Text is placed between the Opening tags and the Closing tags, it will appear as (Bold), that is darker than the rest of the Tags.

EXAMPLE

To use the Bold Tag in the following sentence.

This is for the normal text and &lt;B&gt; this is for the bold text &lt;/B&gt;

In the Browser, the above will appear as:

This is for the normal text and this is for the bold text.
Creating on HTML document

To create HTML web pages, you will use the Notepad program of Windows as an Editor. To do this:
1. Start the Notepad program (Start→Programs→Accessories→Notepad)
2. Type the matter for your Web page
3. Save the File with a “.htm” or a “.html” extension.

Creating a web page (mypage.htm)

A web page created
(Double click to open it)

THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD NOT FORGET

1. Student is never right
2. Teacher is often right
3. Principal is always right

A Web page in a window of your browser

4. You will see the Web page created.
5. Just, Double click on the Web page created to open it in the Browser installed on your computer.
Editing the web page In Internet Explorer
1. To do this, just open the View menu and click on the Source option - A Notepad window with Text for the Webpage will open in front of you.
2. Make the changes, Save them and Close it.
When you will open that Web page again, you can see the changes done.

**STRUCTURE OF THE HTML DOCUMENT**

All **HTML documents** are enclosed within the `<HTML>` and the `</HTML>` Tags and contain a Head and a Body. A Head is included within the `<HEAD>` and the `</HEAD>` Tags and the Body is included within the `<BODY>` and the `</BODY>` Tags.

The ‘HTML’ Tag

```
<HTML>  </HTML>
```

The **HTML Tag** is used to start your **HTML document**. This Tag tells your computer that everything between these **Two tags**, is an **HTML document**. You end your document, with the **Closing HTML Tag** i.e. with the `</HTML>` Tag.

The ‘HEAD’ tag

```
<HEAD>  </HEAD>
```

The **Text**, which is not to be displayed on the Web page is mentioned within the `<HEAD>` and the `</HEAD>` Tags. For example, the Title of the Web page, which will be displayed in the **Title bar** of the Browser of the ‘user’, who calls up your page, can be mentioned between the `<TITLE>` and the `</TITLE>` Tags within the `<HEAD>` and the `</HEAD>` Tags.

The ‘BODY’ Tag

```
<BODY>  </BODY>
```

Just as your body consists of different types of organs and body parts, the **BODY Tag** includes, all the visible matter and the contents of your Web page. All the Text, the Links, the Images are mentioned in the **BODY part.**

All the contents, which you see on a Web page, is enclosed between the `<BODY>` pair of Tags.
Whatever you type within the `<BODY>` and the `</BODY>` Tags will be 'left aligned' and 'wrapped at the end of the window'. No matter, how you type the Text - whether giving Spaces or pressing the Enter key, in between the lines, it will always have a uniform and a default look ('left aligned' and 'auto-wrap' at the end of the Window).

**THE 'FORMATTING' TAGS**

You can Format the Text with the help of many Formatting tags available. For example, if you want to make the Text bold, Underlined or Italic, you can use the following Tags:

The 'BOLD' Tag

`<B>` and `</B>`

The Text, within these Tags will appear Bold (darker than the rest of the Text.)

**EXAMPLE** To show the Bold effect in a web page.

```html
<HTML>
<HEAD>
<TITLE>A Cool Web page</TITLE>
</HEAD>
<BODY>
I AM DANCING TO THE RIGHT TO THE LEFT TO THE CENTER BUT ALAS, NO USE
</BODY>
</HTML>
```

The Source code

```html
I AM DANCING TO THE RIGHT TO THE LEFT TO THE CENTER BUT ALAS, NO USE
```

In the browser window

```html
You can see <B>I am Bold</B> from the rest
</BODY>
```

Will appear in your Web browser as:

```html
You can see I am Bold from the rest
```

The 'ITALICS' Tag

`<I>` and `</I>`

The Text within this 'pair' of Tags will appear in Italics.

**EXAMPLE** To show the Italics effect in a web page.

```html
<BODY>
A Computer without a mouse is <I>like a car</I> without an ignition switch.
</BODY>
```

Will appear in your Web browser as:

```html
A Computer without a mouse is like a car without an ignition switch.
```

**Note!** Sometimes, you will see some HTML documents using the `<EM>` and the `</EM>`. This means Emphasized tag pairs instead of the `<I>` and the `<I>` Tag pair. Actually both of these are used to make the Text italics.

The 'UNDERLINE' Tag

`<U>` and `</U>`

The matter within this 'pair' of Tags will get Underlined.
To show Underline effect in a web page.

```html
<BODY>
Learning computers can actually <U>make you intelligent</U> in other aspects as well.
</BODY>
```
Will appear in your Web browser as:

Learning computers can actually make you intelligent in other aspects as well.

The ‘SUPERSCRIPT’ Tags

```html
<SUP> and </SUP>
```

The matter within this ‘pair’ of Tags will appear as a Superscript.

To show Superscript effect in a web page.

```html
<BODY>
a<SUP>2</SUP>+b<SUP>2</SUP>=2ab
</BODY>
```
Will appear in your Web browser as:

\[ a^2+b^2=2ab \]

The ‘SUBSCRIPT’ Tags

```html
<SUB> and </SUB>
```

The matter within this ‘pair’ of Tags will appear as a Subscript.

To show Subscript effect in a web page.

```html
<BODY>
2H<SUB>2</SUB> + 2CL<SUB>2</SUB> = 4HCL + O<SUB>2</SUB>
</BODY>
```
Will appear in your Web browser as:

\[ 2H_2O + 2CL_2 = 4HCL+O_2 \]

The ‘PREFORMATTED TEXT’ Tags

```html
<pre>
2H<SUB>2</SUB> + 2CL<SUB>2</SUB> = 4HCL + O<SUB>2</SUB>
</pre>
```
Will appear in your Web browser as:

\[ 2H_2O + 2CL_2 = 4HCL+O_2 \]

The Text within this ‘pair’ of Tags will become Preformatted text. Preformatted text has two advantages over the Regular text.

1. It will appear in a Monospaced (or a fixed width) Font and look as if it is typewritten. In a Fixed width font, every character occupies the same space. For example, the character ‘T’ will occupy the same space as the character “M”. This feature makes it ideal for making Tabular entries using constant spaces in-between the words.
2 The **Typed text** will appear in the *Browser window*, the same as if it had been typed in a *Notepad file*, preserving the 'spaces', the 'tabs' and the 'carriage returns' or the *Enter key*.

**Example**

To show the effect of Preformatted text tags.

```
<html>
<head>
<title>A Diet page</title>
</head>
<body>
<pre>
A FAT MAN IS MORE OF A BURDEN ON THE EARTH
</pre>
</body>
</html>
```

The Source code

**SOME STAND ALONE TAGS**

There are a few **Tags**, which do not require the *Closing tag*. These Tags are **Stand alone tags**.

The ‘**PARAGRAPH**’ Tag

```
<p>
This is actually not a *Stand alone tag*, but you can still do away with the *Closing tag* In this case, <p> is used in the beginning of a **Paragraph** and will leave a blank line after it, wherever you use it.
```

This will appear in *Browser window* as:

**Example**

To show the effect of a Paragraph tag.

```
<html>
<head>
<title>A para page</title>
</head>
<body>
You can nest one type of formatting inside another. For example, if you want to make some text bold as well as italics, you should put the <b></b> tag in front of the text and the </b> tag after the text. <p>You can see in the output of this paragraph that whenever you have put paragraph tag, a new paragraph has started.
</body>
</html>
```

The Source code

```
You can nest one type of formatting inside another. For example, if you want to make some text bold as well as italics, you should put the tag in front of the text and the tag after the text.
```

As seen in a browser window

You will observe that the space has come above the **Paragraph tag**