

A Small HTML Document

Example

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
<title>Page Title</title>
</head>
<body>

<h1>My First Heading</h1>
<p>My first paragraph.</p>

</body>
</html>
```

Try it Yourself »

Example Explained

- The **<!DOCTYPE html>** declaration defines this document to be HTML5
- The text between **<html>** and **</html>** describes an HTML document
- The text between **<head>** and **</head>** provides information about the document
- The text between **<title>** and **</title>** provides a title for the document
- The text between **<body>** and **</body>** describes the visible page content
- The text between **<h1>** and **</h1>** describes a heading
- The text between **<p>** and **</p>** describes a paragraph

Using this description, a web browser will display a document with a heading and a paragraph.

HTML Tags

HTML tags are **keywords** (tag names) surrounded by **angle brackets**:

```
<tagname>content goes here...</tagname>
```

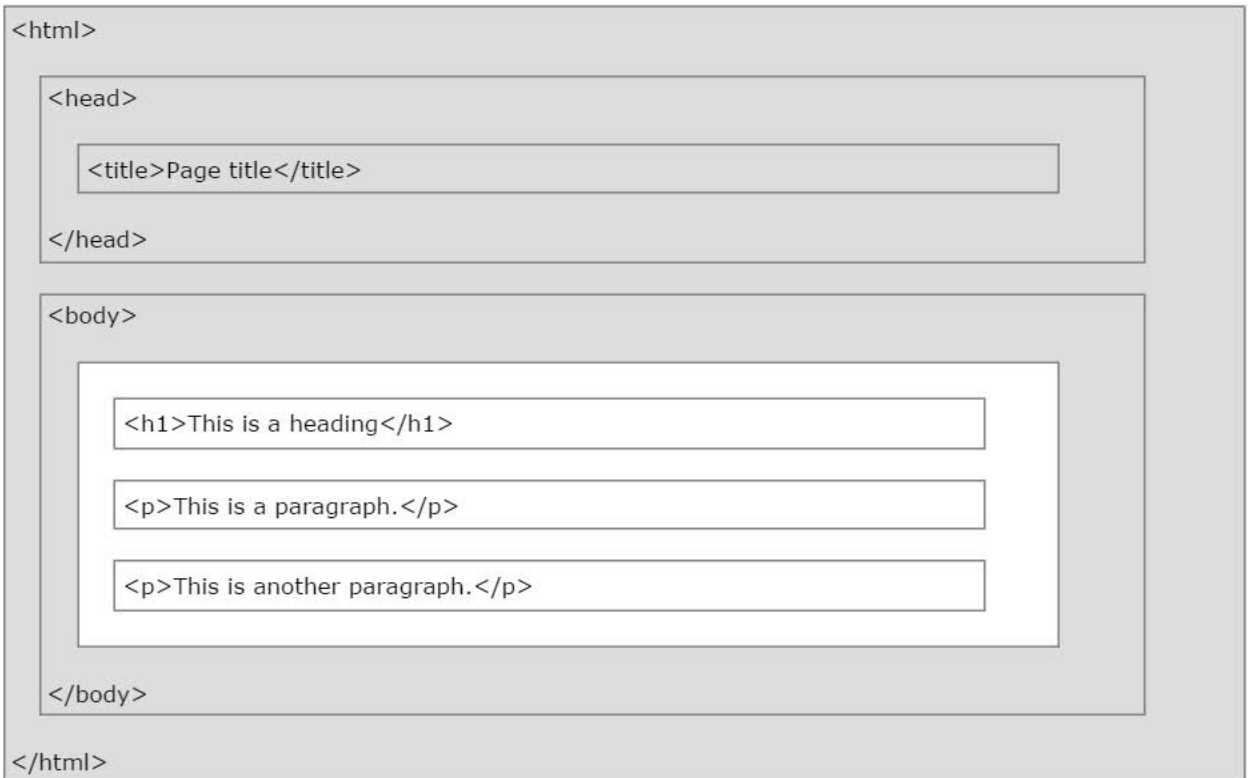
- HTML tags normally come **in pairs** like **<p>** and **</p>**
- The first tag in a pair is the **start tag**, the second tag is the **end tag**
- The end tag is written like the start tag, but with a **forward slash** inserted before the tag name

The browser does not display the HTML tags, but uses them to determine how to display the document:



HTML Page Structure

Below is a visualization of an HTML page structure:



Note: Only the content inside the <body> section (the white area above) is displayed in a browser.

Write HTML Using Notepad or TextEdit

Web pages can be created and modified by using professional HTML editors.

However, for learning HTML we recommend a simple text editor like Notepad (PC) or TextEdit (Mac).

We believe using a simple text editor is a good way to learn HTML.

Follow the four steps below to create your first web page with Notepad or TextEdit.

Step 1: Open Notepad (PC)

Open Notepad in Windows 8 or later:

Open the **Start Screen** (the window symbol at the bottom left on your screen). Type **Notepad**.

Open Notepad in Windows 7 or earlier:

Click **Start** (bottom left on your screen). Click **All Programs**. Click **Accessories**. Click **Notepad**.

Step 1: Open TextEdit (Mac)

Open TextEdit.

Please be sure that the text editor is set to **plain text**. Go to: **Preferences > New Document > select plain text**.

Also make sure both "**Display html file as html code**" and "**Display RTF file as RTF code**" options are checked under "**Open and Save**".

Then open a new document to place the code.

Then open a new document to place the code.

Step 2: Write Some HTML

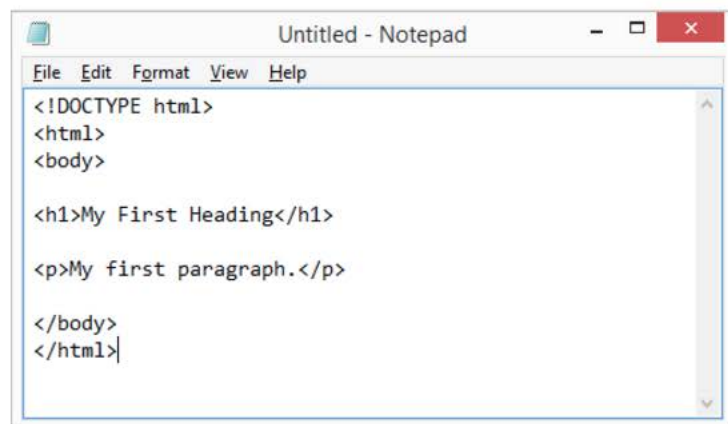
Write or copy some HTML into Notepad.

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<body>

<h1>My First Heading</h1>

<p>My first paragraph.</p>

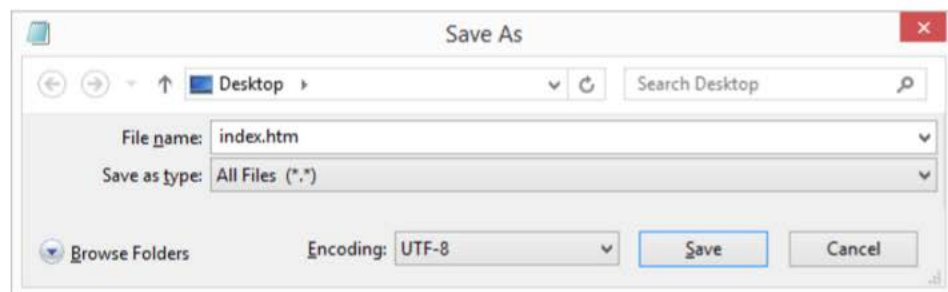
</body>
</html>
```



Step 3: Save the HTML Page

Save the file on your computer. Select **File > Save as** in the Notepad menu.

Name the file "**index.htm**" and set the encoding to **UTF-8** (which is the preferred encoding for HTML files).



You can use either .htm or .html as file extension. There is no difference, it is up to you.

Step 4: View the HTML Page in Your Browser

Open the saved HTML file in your favorite browser (double click on the file, or right-click - and choose "Open with").

The result will look much like this:



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HTML Headings

HTML headings are defined with the **<h1>** to **<h6>** tags.

<h1> defines the most important heading. **<h6>** defines the least important heading:

Example

```
<h1>This is heading 1</h1>
<h2>This is heading 2</h2>
<h3>This is heading 3</h3>
```

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HTML Paragraphs

HTML paragraphs are defined with the **<p>** tag:

Example

```
<p>This is a paragraph.</p>
<p>This is another paragraph.</p>
```

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HTML Links

HTML links are defined with the **<a>** tag:

Example

```
<a href="http://www.w3schools.com">This is a link</a>
```

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The link's destination is specified in the **href attribute**.

Attributes are used to provide additional information about HTML elements.

HTML Links

HTML links are defined with the **<a>** tag:

Example

```
<a href="http://www.w3schools.com">This is a link</a>
```

Try it Yourself »

The link's destination is specified in the **href attribute**.

Attributes are used to provide additional information about HTML elements.

HTML Images

HTML images are defined with the **** tag.

The source file (**src**), alternative text (**alt**), and size (**width** and **height**) are provided as **attributes**:

Example

```

```

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HTML Elements

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HTML Elements

An HTML element usually consists of a **start** tag and **end** tag, with the content inserted in between:

```
<tagname>Content goes here...</tagname>
```

The HTML **element** is everything from the start tag to the end tag:

```
<p>My first paragraph.</p>
```

Start tag	Element content	End tag
<h1>	My First Heading	</h1>
<p>	My first paragraph.	</p>

Some HTML elements are empty (have no content) and do not have an end tag, such as the `
` element (which indicates a line break).

Nested HTML Elements

HTML elements can be nested (elements can contain elements).

All HTML documents consist of nested HTML elements.

This example contains four HTML elements:

Example

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<body>

<h1>My First Heading</h1>
<p>My first paragraph.</p>

</body>
</html>
```

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Example Explained

Example Explained

The **<html>** element defines the **whole document**.

It has a **start** tag `<html>` and an **end** tag `</html>`.

The element **content** is another HTML element (the `<body>` element).

```
<html>
<body>

<h1>My First Heading</h1>
<p>My first paragraph.</p>

</body>
</html>
```

The **<body>** element defines the **document body**.

It has a **start** tag `<body>` and an **end** tag `</body>`.

The element **content** is two other HTML elements (`<h1>` and `<p>`).

```
<body>

<h1>My First Heading</h1>
<p>My first paragraph.</p>

</body>
```

The **<h1>** element defines a **heading**.

It has a **start** tag `<h1>` and an **end** tag `</h1>`.

The element **content** is: My First Heading.

```
<h1>My First Heading</h1>
```

The **<p>** element defines a **paragraph**.

It has a **start** tag `<p>` and an **end** tag `</p>`.

The element **content** is: My first paragraph.

```
<p>My first paragraph.</p>
```

Do Not Forget the End Tag

Some HTML elements will display correctly, even if you forget the end tag:

Example

```
<html>
<body>

<p>This is a paragraph
<p>This is a paragraph

</body>
</html>
```

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The example above works in all browsers, because the closing tag is considered optional.

Never rely on this. It might produce unexpected results and/or errors if you forget the end tag.

Empty HTML Elements

HTML elements with no content are called empty elements.

`
` is an empty element without a closing tag (the `
` tag defines a line break).

Empty elements can be "closed" in the opening tag like this: `
`.

HTML5 does not require empty elements to be closed. But if you want stricter validation, or if you need to make your document readable by XML parsers, you must close all HTML elements properly.

Use Lowercase Tags

HTML tags are not case sensitive: `<P>` means the same as `<p>`.

The HTML5 standard does not require lowercase tags, but W3C **recommends** lowercase in HTML, and **demands** lowercase for stricter document types like XHTML.

At W3Schools we always use lowercase tags.

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HTML Attributes

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Attributes provide additional information about HTML elements.

HTML Attributes

- All HTML elements can have **attributes**
- Attributes provide **additional information** about an element
- Attributes are always specified in **the start tag**
- Attributes usually come in name/value pairs like: **name="value"**

The lang Attribute

The language of the document can be declared in the **<html>** tag.

The language is declared with the **lang** attribute.

Declaring a language is important for accessibility applications (screen readers) and search engines:

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en-US">
<body>

...

</body>
</html>
```

The first two letters specify the language (en). If there is a dialect, use two more letters (US).

The title Attribute

Here, a **title** attribute is added to the **<p>** element. The value of the title attribute will be displayed as a tooltip when you mouse over the paragraph:

Example

```
<p title="I'm a tooltip">  
This is a paragraph.  
</p>
```

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The href Attribute

HTML links are defined with the **<a>** tag. The link address is specified in the **href** attribute:

Example

```
<a href="http://www.w3schools.com">This is a link</a>
```

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You will learn more about links and the `<a>` tag later in this tutorial.

Size Attributes

HTML images are defined with the **** tag.

The filename of the source (**src**), and the size of the image (**width** and **height**) are all provided as **attributes**:

Example

```

```

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HTML Headings

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Headings are important in HTML documents.

HTML Headings

Headings are defined with the `<h1>` to `<h6>` tags.

`<h1>` defines the most important heading. `<h6>` defines the least important heading.

Example

```
<h1>This is heading 1</h1>
<h2>This is heading 2</h2>
<h3>This is heading 3</h3>
<h4>This is heading 4</h4>
<h5>This is heading 5</h5>
<h6>This is heading 6</h6>
```

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Note: Browsers automatically add some white space (a margin) before and after a heading.

Headings Are Important

Search engines use the headings to index the structure and content of your web pages.

Users skim your pages by its headings. It is important to use headings to show the document structure.

`<h1>` headings should be used for main headings, followed by `<h2>` headings, then the less important `<h3>`, and so on.

Note: Use HTML headings for headings only. Don't use headings to make text **BIG** or **bold**.

HTML Horizontal Rules

The `<hr>` tag defines a thematic break in an HTML page, and is most often displayed as a horizontal rule.

The `<hr>` element is used to separate content (or define a change) in an HTML page:

Example

```
<h1>This is heading 1</h1>
<p>This is some text.</p>
<hr>
<h2>This is heading 2</h2>
<p>This is some other text.</p>
<hr>
```

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The HTML `<head>` Element

The HTML **`<head>`** element has nothing to do with HTML headings.

The `<head>` element is a container for metadata. HTML metadata is data about the HTML document. Metadata is not displayed.

The `<head>` element is placed between the `<html>` tag and the `<body>` tag:

Example

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>

<head>
  <title>My First HTML</title>
  <meta charset="UTF-8">
</head>

<body>
  .
  .
  .
```

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Note: Metadata typically define the document title, character set, styles, links, scripts, and other meta information