Basic HTML Tags

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Introduction

This document gives information about some of the basic *tags* used to create a web page. There are many html tutorials avalable on the web, but the information below will help you create a basic web page.

HTML Tags

Web pages are created using a language called HTML. Don't be intimidated at the thought of having to learn HTML; the basics you'll need to make a web page are simple.

HTML uses tags to control the look and feel of your web page. Tags are enclosed in < > characters.

Many tags have a closing tag, which are characterized by a forward slash "/" before the tag name. This closing tag tells the browser to cease whatever instruction began with the initial tag. The general form for a tag is:

< tag_name > Your Text </tag_name>

There are many tags in HTML, and each one tells the browser a piece of information about how it should display the text between the tags.

Only basic HTML tags will be addressed in this document. The HTML language continues to develop. If you are interested in learning more about HTML seach the web for HTML courses and/or tutorials.

Marking up your HTML document

The first step of the webpage creation process is to compose the HTML files.

Create a directory on your computer's hard drive where the files will be stored while you are working with them. You will need to know the path to this directory to view your files and to upload them.

You can enter the text in a simple text editor such as Notepad, or SimpleText if you have a Mac, or use a program designed for making web pages such as Homesite or Dreamweaver. You could also seach the internet for "html editor" and find many you can download.

You can check to see how your files will look when they are published by using your web browser. It is a good idea to check how you web pages will look on several browsers. To view your files

Choose FILE -> OPEN in the browsers' menu,
and selecting the HTML file that you've written.

Using the tags discussed throughout the document to format your text will allow you to create an attractive web page. *Note: You may find it easier to compose your text first and then format it.*

<html> </html>	The <html> tag is in fact the only tag you need to create the simplest webpage. The <html> tag tells the browser that this is an HTML document, so the browser understands how to show the page. The first line in each file will be <html> and the last line in each file will be </html>.
<head> </head>	The "head" of an HTML document contains information which is *not* displayed on the screen when viewed in a browser, but is nevertheless important in making the document more readable. You need both the opening <head> and closing </head> tag. An example of a tag that would appear in the head of an HTML document is the <title> </title> tag. Any text within this tag is not seen directly in the browser window, but *is* displayed in the *title* bar of the browser.
<body> </body>	The "body" contains the part of the document that will be viewed in the webpage. You need both the opening <body> and closing </body> tag. You can set options for the <body> tag that will be applied to the entire web page. Some of these options are:

	• background="url" - Sets the background image to the image found at URL. The image should be in .gif, .jpg, or .jpeg format • bg color = "#hexvalue" or bg color="color_name" - Sets the background color. • link="#hexvalue" or link="color_name" - Sets the colour for unvisited links • vlink="#hexvalue" or vlink="color_name" - Sets the colour for visited links • text="#hexvalue" - Sets the colour for text in the body of the document
<!-- my comment -->	Text in the comment tag will be ignored by the browser, and not displayed as part of the resulting webpage. If you comment your documents freely, using them to describe the more complex sections of your document, it'll make understanding and editing your document much easier when you update the page at a later date.
                 	Headings are useful when you want to organize text into named sections. In all there are six headings of form <h#>, where n is any number between 1 and 6; since the browser must know the beginning and ending words for the heading, closing tags of the form </h#> are needed to close the six different heading tags. Applying heading tags to text causes that text to have a predetermined size and format. H1 is the largest, and H6 is the smallest.
your text your text your text your text	The paragraph tag tells your web browser where to make paragraph breaks by enclosing each paragraph with a tag before the text, and a tag after the text. The tag has several options, the most common

	of which is ALIGN. ALIGN can be set to "LEFT", "RIGHT", or "CENTER", to affect the horizontal alignment of the paragraph.
	The tag works for paragraphs, tables, headings, and images. Everything between the tags will be centered horizontally on the page.
<blockquote> </blockquote>	When you want to include a quotation in the text of your web page use the <blockquote> </blockquote> tag. The text enclosed in the tags will appear on the webpage with an indentation on both the left and right sides, as well as a blank line before and after the text.
 	The tag stands for "**br**eak", or "line **br**eak". The tag will cause the text immediately after the tag to appear on a new line.
	The creates a non breaking space. It is used to add extra spaces without adding an extra line, or to add a blank character between letters while keeping the text together.
<hr> <hr align = "left"> <hr align = "center"> <hr align = "right"> <hr size = "number"> <hr width = "number"> <hr width = "percentage"> <hr color = "color name"> <hr color = "hex number ">	The <hr> tag stands for **h**orizontal **r**ule. This tag will cause a horizontal line to be drawn on the screen. This tag has several options; the most common ones include: • align - aligns the line horizontally, "left", "right", or "center". • size - sets the thickness of the line to the number of pixels. • width - sets the width of the line to be number of pixels or to take up the percentage of the screen's width. (For example, if you wish to create a line that takes up the whole width of the screen, use <hr width ="100%">). • color name - sets the colour of the line. You can use the color name or the hex code for the color.
HTML allows you to make both unordered (bulleted) and ordered (numbered) lists. Lists can be "nested" within each other.	
  - List item 1 - List item 2 - List item 3	Unordered Lists In an unordered list bullets are placed before each list item. The basic form for an unordered list uses

List item 4 	the tag, a collection of tags for each of the **l**ist **i**tems, and finally a to tell the browser that the list is complete.
  - List item 1 - List item 2 - List item 3 - List item 4 	Ordered Lists The ordered list numbers each item consecutively. The basic form for an ordered list is the tag, (which stands for **o**rdered **l**ist), a collection of **l**ist **i**tems identified by tags, and then the tag.
  - Vegetables - Carrots - Beans - Fruits - Apples - Oranges - Bananas - Meat - Ground Beef - Steak - Ham 	Nested Lists One of the more useful features of lists is the ability to create nested lists. A nested list is a list within a list. These lists may be any combination of unordered and ordered lists. The sample to the left will result in the following: Vegetables ○ Carrots ○ Beans Fruits ○ Apples ○ Oranges ○ Bananas Meat ○ Ground beef ○ Steak ○ Ham
Colours in HTML You can add colour to both the text and the background using HTML. (Note the spelling of color - *colour* will not work.	
<color = "red"> <color = "blue"> <color = "#A91227"> <color = "#0000FF">	Colour in HTML can be set using two different methods. You can assign something a certain colour using... it's hexadecimal equivalent, or it's name (ie. "red", "blue", "grey", etc.) There are several advantages to using the first system; the hexadecimal system will work in

	virtually all browsers. Also, you have *many* more shade and colour options by using the hexadecimal system. There are many webpages that provide charts that give the hexadecimal value for a particular colour; **click here to view one of these charts.** To use the chart, simply identify the colour you wish to use, and write down (or remember) the 6-digit hex value for the colour, listed with the colour. That's the value you'll be using to set the colour attribute for the font or background. HTML also understands some basic colours by name, red, yellow, orange, blue, brown, black, white.
Font You can change the way your text looks by changing its font, size, colour and emphasis.	
  <font face = " "> <font size = " "> <font color="#hexnum">	The font tag does nothing on its own, but when combined with other keywords as options in the tag, it's quite powerful. You can string several options together in one <font> command. The face option lets you choose the particular typestyle for the text, just as you would in a word processor. This allows you to set one paragraph to use the "arial" font, and another to use the "Times Roman" font. One important note about this feature is that the font must be installed on the computer of the person viewing the page, or else the browser will not recognize the font selection. The size tag allows you to set the size of the font, The size attribute can be assigned a value between "1" being the smallest and "7" being the largest. The color tag lets you change the colour of the text. The color attribute can be assigned to most common names for colours, such as "yellow", "red", "pink", "black", etc., (see the color chart for more) but to get a larger number of colours, you can use the format <font color="#hexnum">, where HEXNUM is the 6-digit hex value found in a **color chart**.
 <bold> </bold>	There are several other character formatting tags that help to make characters stand out.

     <tt> </tt>	The tag, will cause words to appear in bold. Although this is the preferred method for creating text in boldface, a <bold> </bold> tag exists which will create the same effect. The tag will make text appear in italics. An tag also exists which will produce the same effect. The <tt> </tt> tag changes the font of that text to a typewriter font, usually Courier.

Creating Links

Links are what allow webpages to be connected either to another web page or to a specific location on the current we page.

 Go To Queen's Web Page go to ... go to ... text <a href="mailto:user@host"> Words that will be the link </A>	The most common link is where the text is anchored to another web page. This would be text to act as link You can also link to sections within a document. This is possible through what are called *named anchors*. A named anchor is a hidden reference marker for a particular place in your HTML file. When you include a named anchor somewhere in an HTML document, and then create a link to that anchor, the browser will jump to that line when the link is clicked. **In order to create a link to a particular section of a page, you must perform two steps:** 1. Assign an anchor name to the position 2. Create a link to that position The first of these tasks can be performed through use of the NAME attribute of the <a> tag, as follows:

	The anchor name can be anything you choose, as long as it's made up of numbers, letters, or the underscore character, and you refer to the same anchor name when you actually create the link. The second task, the one of actually creating the link, is very similar to the way we created links to other webpages, except that we must specify the anchor name to which we wish to link. This can be done in the following way: go to ... Anchor links can also be used to link to a specific anchor on another webpage. (In this case the target and source page of the link are the same). To create a link of this kind, first create a named anchor in the target webpage, as described above, and then create the link in the source webpage as follows: go to ... Links can also be created to send email to a specific email address, as follows: words that will be the link
<img src = "filename" height="number" width="number" alt="description" border="number">	The <img> tag, where IMG stands for **im**a**g**e has no </img> counterpart, but does have several useful options.The SRC option is the *only necessary option* for the <img> tag, since the browser must know where it can find the image file. The SRC option can be set to equal a valid filename, if the image file is located in the same directory as the source document of an image file. The most common options are: • **SRC="FILENAME"** - Specifies the SOURCE of the image; if the image file is in the same directory as the source document, all that is needed is the filename itself. Note: Don't link to another page for an image - copy the image to your filespace and link to it from there (with permission of course!)

- **HEIGHT="NUMBER"** - Specifies that the height of the image should be NUMBER pixels.

- **WIDTH="NUMBER" -** Specifies that the width of the image should be NUMBER pixels. If no dimensions are specified for the image, the browser will insert the image exactly as is, at the same size as you would view it in a picture editor on your computer. The picture will load slightly faster if you specify the height and width so that the browser does not have to determine it. You may also find it quicker and easier to specify a specific width and height for the image in the HTML , rather than editting and resizing the image on your computer.

- **ALT="DESCRIPTION"** - Specifies a description of the image. The ALT option for the IMG tag is useful for those whose browsers cannot support in-line images, or have their images turned off in their browsers; instead of seeing the image, they'll see the description of the image that you gave them in the ALT tag. While the majority of people "surfing the web" these days enjoy browsers that have full graphics capabilities, it's a good idea to include an ALT clause in your IMG tag for those who don't. Also keep in mind that people who must use voice software or hardware in order to read a webpage will appreciate having the description.

- **BORDER="NUMBER"** - Specifies the width of the image's border, in pixels.

An image tag could look like:

<img src = "filename" height = "number" width = "number" alt = "description" border = "number">