HTML Quick Reference Guide

USE THIS DOCUMENT AS A QUICK REFERENCE for most common tags used in HTML. This reference is not exhaustive and does not attempt in all cases to distinguish among tags that are purely extensions of one browser or another. The tags below will work interchangeably in most browsers and versions. The rule of thumb is: try it and it is doesn't work or is ineffective, try the alternative tag. If you want the greatest number of people and browsers to see an effect, use the simplest tag/approach for the lowest common denominator. If you are keyboarding your pages in simple text editors like Microsoft's Notepad, capitalization is not important with the HTML tag. `<HTML>` is the same code and effect as `<html>`.

This meant as a quick reference for most of the common elements used in most pages. It is not meant to be exhaustive nor does it attempt to provide full instruction. Learning HTML is a function of trial and error and practice. Feel free to print or save this document source. It is in Adobe® PDF format for ease of viewing, printing and saving. The page is not linked to any style sheet to keep it simple and free of viewing or printing problems. I claim no right of ownership to its text or design. HTML coding also can be found http://www.w3.org .

As Learning Increases...

As you get comfortable with HTML and your thirst for knowledge and skill increases, you will enjoy reading and practicing with Cascading Style Sheets (CSS). Through CSS, you will discover that every basic HTML feature can be modified and customized. Learning NEVER ends.

Return to Class page

Document Structure

`<HTML>` Encloses the entire document (container for all other HTML elements)`</HTML>`

`<HEAD>` Start/end the header (non-display section that contains some scripts, page variables, etc) `</HEAD>`

`<BODY>` Start/end the section (BODY contains all content) `</BODY>`
`<!--your comment here-->`
        A comment. Good for documentation. The structure is important because nothing inside the tag will display: `<!-- -->`

Head Elements

`<TITLE>` Start/end a title (page title bar) `</TITLE>`
`<BASE HREF="url">` Identify the full URL of this document

Head Elements that help SEARCH Engines

These tags are placed in the `<HEAD> </HEAD>` section:

A page description tag:

```
<META name="description" content="Recommend 25 words or less
describing your site">
```

A tag to provide key word association with your page. Try to keep the words to 25 or fewer. Note: Keep these to the actual content of your page -- No cheating by using popular words not related to your site. Some search engines will penalize you for "keyword abuse."

```
<META name="keywords" content="word1 word2 word3 wordn ">
```

Heading Styles

There are six levels, each a percentage larger or smaller that the other. Standard HTML specifications have the headings boldfaced. All formatting can be applied by modifying heading properties.

`<H1>` # Level 1 Heading `</H1>`

`<H2>` ## Level 2 Heading `</H2>`

`<H3>` **Level 3 heading** `</H3>`

`<H4>` **Level 4 Heading** `</H4>`

`<H5>` **Level 5 Heading** `</H5>`

`<H6>` **Level 6 Heading** `</H6>`

Paragraph Elements

`<p>` Start a new paragraph.
`</p>` Ends the paragraph. This is a "paired" element, meaning that there is a beginning and an ending tag. For this element, the `<p>` is considered self-terminating but it is always recommended that the pair is used...in other words, use the `</p>`.

`<br>` Creates a line break, otherwise known as a hard-return. This allows line breaks to occur within a `<p> </p>` element.

`<hr>` Basic horizontal line. This is not a paragraph nor a heading element. All it does is create a single line extending from side to side in the page. Nothing else can display in the same space as the line. It is NOT paired.

Horizontal line thickness, width and color can be affected with property modifications:

Red line: `<hr color="red">` or `<hr color="ff0000">`

Thicker red line: `<hr size="10" color="red">`

Shorter, thicker, red line: `<hr width="50%" size="10" color="red">`

Centered, shorter, thicker, red line: `<hr align="center" width="50%" size="10" color="red">`

`<BLOCKQUOTE>`

   Good for quoted text (but, much more: anything you want indented) This is a pared element and must be used keyed in that way.

`</BLOCKQUOTE>`

`<PRE>` Preformatted text `</PRE>`

PRE is a paired element to format text to look like old-fashioned typewriter, mono-spaced text. Good for quotes, document citations, footnotes, or any other use to set text apart from surrounding text.

Lists

`<OL>` Start/end an ordered list `</OL>`
`<UL>` Start/end an unordered list `</UL>`
`<MENU>` Start/end a menu `</MENU>`
`<DIR>` Start/end a directory listing `</DIR>`
`<DL>` Start/end a definition list `</DL>`
`<LI>` Start a list item, works with OL, UL , MENU, DIR and DL
`<DT>` Term to be defined in a definition list
`<DD>` Term's definition in a definition list

Character Styles

`<STRONG>` Strong text (same as bold) `</STRONG>`
`<EM>` Emphatic text (same as italic) `</EM>`
`<CITE>` A citation `</CITE>`
`<ADDRESS>` A name and/or address `</ADDRESS>`
`<CODE>` Computer code `</CODE>`
`<SAMP>` Sample computer output `</SAMP>`
`<DFN>` A definition `</DFN>`
`<KBD>` An example keyboard sequence `</KBD>`
`<I>` Italic font `</I>`
`<B>` Bold font `</B>`
`<u>` Underlined font `</u>`
`<TT>` Monospaced typewriter font (often the same as preformatted) `</TT>`

Links and Inline Images

`<A HREF="url">` Start/end a link/anchor `</A>`
`<A NAME="name">` Start/end an bookmark/anchor `</A>`
`<A NAME="name"` (both a bookmark and a link) `HREF="url">`
`<IMG SRC="url"` An inline image
     `ALIGN=MIDDLE` aligned with text at the middle
     `ALIGN=TOP` aligned with text at the top
     `ALIGN=BOTTOM` aligned with text at the bottom
     `ALT="text">` text for text-only browsers ... strongly recommended to make pages accessible for those with screen readers (visually impaired).

Form Element

`<FORM` Start a fill-out form
`ACTION="url"` using url as the search script
  `METHOD=GET` using the GET method
  `METHOD=POST>` using the POST method
`</FORM>` End a form
`<INPUT` Start an input field
  `TYPE="text"` a one-line text entry field
  `TYPE="password"` a one-line password entry field
  `TYPE="radio"` a radio button
  `TYPE="checkbox"` a checkbox
  `TYPE="hidden"` a hidden field
  `TYPE="image"` an in line image that acts as a button
  `TYPE="submit"` the "submit" button
  `TYPE="reset"` the "reset" button
  `NAME="name"` assign name to this field
  `VALUE="value"` use value as the default for this field
  `SIZE=NN` make text field NN characters wide
  `MAXLENGTH=NN` accept at most NN characters in text field
  `CHECKED>` Activate (make default) checkbox or radio button
`<TEXTAREA` Start a large scrolling text entry field
  `ROWS=NN` with NN rows
  `COLS=NN>` and NN columns
`</TEXTAREA>` End a `<TEXTAREA>` field
`<SELECT` Start a popup menu or scrolling list
  `SIZE=NN` NN lines high (Scrolling lists only)
  `MULTIPLE>` allowing multiple selections at once
`</SELECT>` End a popup menu or scrolling list
`<OPTION` Start an entry in a menu or list
  `SELECTED` initially selected
  `VALUE="value">` with value, e.g., "Chocolate" is selected as a default flavor

Logical

`<EM>` Emphasis `</EM>`
`<STRONG>` Strong emphasis `</STRONG>`
`<VAR>` A variable `</VAR>`
`<DFN>` A definition `</DFN>`
`<CITE>` A citation `</CITE>`
`<ADDRESS>` An address `</ADDRESS>`
`<CODE>` Computer code `</CODE>`
`<SAMP>` Sample computer output `</SAMP>`
`<KBD>` A key from the keyboard `</KBD>`

Physical (often browser-dependent)

`<I>` Italic font `</I>`
`<B>` Bold font `</B>`
`<U>` Underlined font `</U>`
`<TT>` Monospaced "typewriter" font `</TT>`
`<STRIKE>` Strike-through text `</STRIKE>`
`<BIG>` Big font `</BIG>`
`<SMALL>` Small font `</SMALL>`
`<SUP>` Superscript font `</SUP>`
`<SUB>` Subscript font `</SUB>`

Font-Related Elements

`<BASEFONT>`   Default size and color

`<FONT>` Change size and color `</FONT>`

`<FONT COLOR="AQUA">`

Color can be any of 16 word values: Aqua, Black, Blue, Fuchsia, Gray, Green, Lime, Maroon, Navy, Olive, Purple, Red, Silver, Teal, White, Yellow. See also COLOR WORDS page for other options. Color also can be in hexadecimal values: 00 .. FF for each of three colors Red, Green, and Blue. See also COLOR GUIDE page for more options.

Example: `<FONT COLOR="#RRGGBB">` RR is for red, GG is green and BB is blue
The RED value can be from 00 (0%) to FF (100%), etc. Hexadecimal counts 0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,A,B,C,D,E,F. Hundreds colors can be produced (0-F in all digit positions), but only some 216 (Netscape colors) are seen to be different on most displays. Experiment!

`<FONT COLOR="#AE3C92">`What **COLOR** is this?`</FONT>`

Hint: It is close to FUCHSIA or MAGENTA. It is NOT a recommended color specification it just happens to be possible. A better choice would be #993399. More on color below.

Colors

There are effectively 216 colors that can be used in web pages. Any more than that depends on the computer and the monitor to create approximate colors known as dithering. More color information can be researched at the [World Wide Web Consortium's Color Tutorial page.](#)

A little philosophy: Color can add character and excitement to a page or it can make it almost unviewable. It is a personal choice, but if you care about how other people react, consider outside opinions.

```
<BODY BGCOLOR="BLACK">
<TABLE BORDER="1" BORDERCOLOR="BLUE">
```

or

```
<TABLE BORDER="1" BORDERCOLORlight="AQUA" BORDERCOLORdark="NAVY">
```
A kind of shade effect.

```
<TD BGCOLOR="MAROON">
<MARQUEE BGCOLOR="TEAL">
```

Bordercolor and Marquee effects will be visible only in Internet Explorer. The same rules of color apply in all cases. See above font color definitions.

Color can be added to text, page backgrounds, table borders, table cell backgrounds and the background of the <MARQUEE> tag for Internet Explorer 4.0 and above.