Perfect Guide for building effective web pages

WebCraft 2006

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For use for the contestants of WebCraft 2006 Only

Step 1 : Getting Started

Introduction

If you've been on the net for a while, you've used email, chatted up strangers, surfed interesting sites, and also shopped online. Now its time to announce your presence on the internet (World Wide Web) with a homepage.

What's a Homepage?

A homepage is a page on the internet for displaying to the world information on any topic you choose or are involved in. A personal homepage will have your personal details while a business homepage will have information regarding your business.

Consider your homepage to be your home on the internet where people will visit and find out more about you and your interests. You can have anything on your homepage from your personal resume to your favorite music or information about your pet. Anything is possible !!!

Terms to Know

WWW : World Wide Web
The internet as a whole is called the World Wide Web. Hence the extension www in the URL addresses. It is a widely used term and you will come across it quite often.

HTML : Hyper Text Markup Language
It is the basic language in which webpages are coded or created. It consists of information formatted with tags or special commands. It is a simple and easy to use language and some basic knowledge of it is essential if you are creating your homepage.

Browser
A program used to load, view, and interact with Web documents. The most famous examples of browsers are Internet Explorer and Netscape Communicator.

Content
The actual information in a document - all of the words, images, and links which a user can read and interact with.

Hyperlink
A link from one document to another, or to any resource, or within a document. The hyperlinked text is highlighted in some fashion. The default is usually blue, underlined text, but your display may vary.

URL :

Uniform Resource Locator
It is a standard way of expressing the location and data type of a resource on the net. The resource could be a webpage, image etc.
Eg. This URL points to the Webcraft homepage,
http://spaces.msn.com/webcraftonline/

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Tags Explained

HTML is composed of different tags. HTML tags are always enclosed in angle-brackets < > and are case-insensitive; that is, it doesn't matter whether you type them in upper or lower case. As a rule tags are always upper case, because it makes the tags easier to pick out in a document, but it is not compulsory to use uppercase.

Tags typically occur in begin-end pairs. These pairs are in the form

<tag> ... </tag>

where the indicates the beginning of a tag-pair, and the indicates the end. (The three dots indicate an arbitrary amount of content between the tags). The usual way to refer to each tag is "tag" for the first and "slash-tag" for the second, where tag is the actual name of the tag being discussed.

HTML Editors

As you begin your journey into HTML you must first decide what vehicle you will want to use. In other words you have to decide what editor you will be using to write, edit, create and view your HTML code. The decision should be based on your level of understanding of HTML, ease of use, special features etc. Do you choose a no frills editor like Notepad or do you use a feature rich but more difficult to master editor like Homesite or Hotdog.

Step 2 : Creating Your first HTML document

Lets jump headfirst into your first HTML document.
Open 'Notepad' or whichever editor you have chosen and start with the following...

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

Each one of those is called a tag. There is a starting tag and a closing tag. To make a closing tag just add a / to the starting tag. Most, but not all tags have a closing tag. Tags are a way to give instructions to the browser. What you have just told the browser that <HTML> is the start of a HTML document and </HTML> is the end of a HTML document.

Next, every HTML document needs a pair of HEAD tags.

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

Give your page a name within the TITLE tags.

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```
<HTML>
<HEAD>
<TITLE>My first HTML page!</TITLE>
</HEAD>
</HTML>
```

And the bulk of the page is going to be within the BODY tags. Lets put the phrase 'Hello World' or any other text you like within the BODY tags.

```
<HTML>
<HEAD>
<TITLE>My first HTML page!</TITLE>
</HEAD>
<BODY>
Hello World!!!
</BODY>
</HTML>
```

Now save the document with the extension .htm or .html and your HTML document is ready. Congratulations!!! You have just created your first HTML document. You can now doubleclick on it and view it in a browser. This is the minimum requirement for an HTML document.

Step 3 : Formating the text in your HTML document.

The next step will be to format the text or information between the BODY tags. In simple words it means that we will learn how to change the font or color of the text, how to make it bold, underlined etc.

For the sake of convenience we will only view the code which comes between the BODY tags. But remember every HTML document has got to have HTML, HEAD, and BODY tags.

Using the <B></B> tags for Bold.

Lets start with **Bold**

```
<BODY>
<B>Hello World</B>
</BODY>
```

Hello World

At the <B> tag we start making things bold, and at the </B> tag we stop making things bold.

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Using the <I></I> tags for Italics.

Similiarly we can use <I> and </I> tags for Italics

```
<BODY>
<I>Hello World</I>
</BODY>
```

Hello World

Using the <U></U> tags for Underline.

We can use <U> and </U> tags for underlining...

```
<BODY>
<U>Hello World</U>
</BODY>
```

<u>Hello World</u>

Using tags in combination.

```
<BODY>
<U><B>Hello World<B></U>
</BODY>
```

<u>Hello World</u>

Note :

When we use tags in combination we have *nested tags*. If you are going to use tag pairs in combination, then to avoid confusing the browser, they should be nested, not overlapping. For example...

<THIS><THAT></THIS></THAT> Overlapping tags.... Wrong
<THIS><THAT></THAT></THIS> Nested tags.... Correct

Changing the FONT SIZE

Now lets try to change the font size of the text. This involves using the <FONT> and </FONT> tags.

First add the <FONT> tags...

```
<BODY>
Something really <FONT>cool</FONT>
</BODY>
```

Then specify a SIZE attribute.

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```
<BODY>
Something really <FONT SIZE=6>cool</FONT>
</BODY>
```

The result..

Something really cool

Fonts come in 7 sizes. The default size depends on the browser. If you don't give a font size then it will take the default size.

Size 1 Hello World
Size 2 Hello World
Size 3 Hello World
Size 4 Hello World
Size 5 Hello World
Size 6 Hello World
Size 7 Hello World

You can also specify the font size as..

```
<BODY>
Something really <FONT SIZE= +2>cool</FONT>
</BODY>
```

Here the FONT=+2 means that the font size is the default size plus 2. You can also make it negative ie. FONT=-1

Changing the Font

Now lets take a look at changing the actual Font.

Every browser has a default font setting - font name, size and color. The default is usually Times New Roman and it's black. Of course we can specify font names other than the defaults. Like ARIAL and VERDANA.

```
<BODY>
Something really <FONT FACE="ARIAL">cool</FONT>
</BODY>
```

The font will only display if your viewer has that font installed on their computer. If the person looking at the page doesn't have installed on their computer the font you specify, then they will only see the default font. So be very judicious in your use of

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fonts. Arial and Comic Sans MS are pretty widely distributed with Windows. So is **Impact!**. You can also specify more than one font,

```
<FONT FACE="ARIAL, HELVETICA, LUCIDA SANS">Hello World</FONT>.
```

Here are some more common fonts.

Andale Mono Arial **Arial Black**
Comic Sans MS Courier Georgia **Impact**
Times Rew Roman Trebuchet MS Verdana

Changing the Font Color

You can also change the font color. The common colors being red, green, cyan, brown, black, white, yellow, grey etc.

```
<BODY>
<FONT COLOR="red">Hello World</FONT>
</BODY>
```

We can, of course use more than one ATTRIBUTE in a <FONT> tag...

```
<BODY>
<FONT COLOR="blue" FACE="ARIAL" SIZE="3">Hello World</FONT>
</BODY>
```

Hello World

Step 4 : Formating blocks of text in your HTML document.

Creating a line break with the <BR> tag.

Unless told otherwise a browser displays the characters in a steady stream. If you don't do some sort of formatting then your entire page will be a continous single line.

For example..

```
<BODY>
Hi!
First Line
Second Line
Third Line
Fourth Line
</BODY>
```

Will show as..

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First Line Second Line Third Line Fourth Line

To skip to a new line we use the <BR> tag. Here is the revised document.

```
<BODY>
Hi!
<BR>First Line
<BR>Second Line
<BR>third Line
<BR>Fourth Line
</BODY>
```

First Line
Second Line
Third Line
Fourth Line

The <BR> tag basically says - start a new line. You can also use the <BR> tag to skip one or more lines.

```
<BODY>
<BR>First Line
<BR>Second Line
<BR>
<BR>Third Line
<BR>
<BR>
<BR>Fourth Line
</BODY>
```

First Line
Second Line

Third Line

Fourth Line

Formatting entire paragraphs with the <P> tag.

Now lets take a look at formatting entire paragraphs. The tag to mark a paragraph is <P>. Placing this tag at the start of each paragraph demarcates the paragraph. In some browsers the tag has the effect of skipping a line after the paragraph ends.

```
<BODY>
<P>This is a test paragraph and displays the value of the paragraph
tag.</P>
</BODY>
```

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Another thing about the <P> tag... although in the examples we used a closing tag (</P>), it is not entirely necessary. Nearly all browsers will assume that when a new <P>aragraph has begun, the old one must have ended.

```
<P>First Paragraph
<P>Second Paragraph
```

is the same as...

```
<P>First Paragraph</P>
<P>Second Paragraph</P>
```

Centering text with the <CENTER></CENTER> tags.

Any text placed within <CENTER> and </CENTER> tags will be centered on the page.

```
<BODY>
<CENTER>Hello World</CENTER>
</BODY>
```

Hello World

Leaving Spaces in text with .

Have a look at this document...

```
<BODY>
WebCraft        personal        homepages
</BODY>
```

On the browser it appears as..

WebCraft personal homepages

The browser won't recognize more than 1 space. So you have to use the < > tag wherever you would like to have a space.

```
<BODY>
WebCraft        
personal        
homepages
</BODY>
```

The browser will dispay your text in a steady stream unless you tell it otherwise with line breaks, etc. It will reduce any empty areas to 1 space. If you want more spaces, you must use the space code ( ). If you hit Return (or Enter) while you are typing, most browsers will interpret that as a space... unless there is already a space there.

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Step 5 : Creating Links

Lets take a look at how we can create links to external pages, a mailto link and links within a document.

What is a Hyperlink?

A Hyperlink is a link or connection from one document to another, or to any resource, or within a document. The hyperlinked text is highlighted in some fashion. The default is usually blue, underlined text, but your display may vary. From now on whenever we refer to links we are refering to Hyperlinks.

Creating a link using the <A HREF=></A> Anchor tags.

Let's make a link to Vidyalankar.

First add the text for the links.

```
<BODY>
Go to Vidyalankar!
</BODY>
```

Go to Vidyalankar!

Then add a pair of anchor tags.

```
<BODY>
Go to <A>Vidyalankar!</A>
</BODY>
```

And then finally add the URL with the HREF option. URL Stands for Universal Resource Locator. It is the address of the site you want to link to. In this case it is http://www.vidyalankar.com

```
<BODY>
Go to <A  HREF="http://www.vidyalankar.com/">Vidyalankar!</A>
</BODY>
```

Go to Vidyalankar!

You now have a link to the Rediff website on your page. Similiarly you can have links to any site you like as long as you know the URL (address).

Creating a mailto using the <A HREF></A> Anchor tags.

The mailto link is used to give a link to an e-mail address. On clicking the link the browser opens a compose mail window with the mailto address.

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Lets create a simple mailto link to webcraft.queries@gmail.com

```
<BODY>
Go to <A  HREF="mailto:webcraft.queries@gmail.com">Contact WebCraft</A>
</BODY>
```

Here we replace the URL with mailto:emailaddress. The above example creates a mailto link to webcraft.queries@gmail.com. To see how it works click on the link below.

Contact WebCraft

Creating a link within the document using the <A NAME=></A> tags.

To create a link within a document we follow two steps.
First we mark or name a location in the document with the <A NAME="NAME"></A> tags.

```
<BODY>
<A  NAME="THIS PLACE"></A>
</BODY>
```

Now that we have marked the place in the document we create a link to it.

```
<BODY>
<A  HREF="#THIS PLACE"></A>
</BODY>
```

Clicking on this link will take you to the part of the document where we have previously marked. Note that you can also link to a section of another external document.

```
<BODY>
<A  HREF="document.html#THIS PLACE"></A>
</BODY>
```

This link takes you to the 'THIS PLACE' mark within 'document.html'.

Step 6 : Using Inline Images

A picture is worth a thousand words. And besides a webpage would look pretty dry and boring with only text in it. Lets see how you can put images into your document.

Using the <IMG> tag.

We start with the <IMG> (image) tag.

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

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Now we specify the source and the size.

```
<BODY>
<IMG SRC="/pix/homepages/hmpglogo.gif" WIDTH=147 HEIGHT=61>
</BODY>
```

In the above example we have specified the image file "logo.gif" and is displayed in the document with the dimensions 147 X 61.

The height and width of an image is measured in **Pixels**. Pixels in layman's term are tiny dots that constitute an image. The entire page may consist of 600 X 800 pixels but that varies from computer to computer. But that should give you an idea on the proportion of your image.

Note : When you specify the SRC (source) of the image you will have to give the complete path to the image file eg. SRC="/images/logo.gif". But if the image file is in the same directory as that of the HTML document then only the name will suffice as it is in the above example.

Using the ALT option for browsers that do not support images.

We also have to consider users whose browsers do not support images or the images option is disabled. In such cases we specify and alternate text title to the image.

```
<BODY>
<IMG SRC="/pix/homepages/hmpglogo.gif"
WIDTH=100 HEIGHT=60 ALT="Homepages Logo"> ;
</BODY>
```

Place your mouse over the image to see the alternate text.

Using images as links.

You can also make specify an image as a link. In the previous lesson we saw how to create links using the <A></A> tags. This is one of the tags which dont have a closing slash tag.

Here we simply put the entire <IMG> tag within the <A></A> tags.

```
<BODY>
<A HREF="http://www.webcraftinfo.com/">
<IMG SRC="/pix/homepages/hmpglogo.gif"
WIDTH=100 HEIGHT=60 ALT="Homepages Logo">
</A>
</BODY>
```

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Step 7 : Creating Lists

In this part we take a look at how to create lists. You can make a shopping list or just use the list as a menu or as a directory listing.

Creating an Unordered List

Lets start with creating a bulletted list of say 5 items. We do so by using the <UL> tag. UL stands for Unordered List ie. a list which is not numbered or sorted. We use the <LI> tag to specify each item in the list.

```
<BODY>
<UL>
<LI>Item 1
<LI>Item 2
<LI>Item 3
<LI>Item 4
<LI>Item 5
</UL>
</BODY>
```

This shows as...

- Item 1
- Item 2
- Item 3
- Item 4
- Item 5

The list is put within the <UL></UL> tags and each list item or text is preceded with a <LI> tag.

Creating an Ordered List

An ordered list consists of items which are sequentially numbered or lettered. We use the <OL> tag to specify an ordered list.

```
<BODY>
<OL>
<LI>Item 1
<LI>Item 2
<LI>Item 3
<LI>Item 4
<LI>Item 5
</OL>
</BODY>
```

1. Item 1
2. Item 2
3. Item 3
4. Item 4

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5. Item 5

By default the numbering will start at 1 and increment by one for each item. We can also specify the type of numbering and the starting number.

```
<BODY>
<OL TYPE = A START = 1>
<LI>Item 1
<LI>Item 2
<LI>Item 3
<LI>Item 4
<LI>Item 5
</OL>
</BODY>
```

A. Item 1
B. Item 2
C. Item 3
D. Item 4
E. Item 5

In the above example we have specified the type to be A and the starting value as 1.

The different styles for ordering the list are

A - Use large letters
a - Use small letters
I - Use large Roman numerals
i - Use small Roman numerals
1 - Use numbers.

Lets take another example of ordered listing.

```
<BODY>
<OL TYPE = i START = 1>
<LI>Item 1
<LI>Item 2
<LI>Item 3
<LI>Item 4
<LI>Item 5
</OL>
</BODY>
```

i. Item 1
ii. Item 2
iii. Item 3
iv. Item 4
v. Item 5

Creating Directory Listings

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To create a directory listing we use the <DIR> tag instead of the usual <UL> or <OL> tags.

```
<BODY>
<DIR>
<LI>Item 1
<LI>Item 2
<LI>Item 3
<LI>Item 4
<LI>Item 5
</DIR>
</BODY>
```

Here's the result...

- Listing 1
- Listing 2
- Listing 3
- Listing 4
- Listing 5

Creating A Menu

We can also use the <MENU> tag to create a menu of items.

```
<BODY>
<MENU>
<LI>Listing 1
<LI>Listing 2
<LI>Listing 3
<LI>Listing 4
<LI>Listing 5
</MENU>
</BODY>
```

Here's the result...

- Item 1
- Item 2
- Item 3
- Item 4
- Item 5

Depending on your requirements you can create neat and precise lists which will help you present information in a more ordered manner.

Notice the blue border around the image. It marks the image as a link. You can remove this border by specifying BORDER=0 within the <IMG> tag.

```
<BODY>
<A HREF="http://members.rediff.com/">
```

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```
<IMG SRC="/pix/homepages/hmpglogo.gif"
WIDTH=100 HEIGHT=60 ALT="Homepages Logo" BORDER=0>
</A>
</BODY>
```

Changing the Background of an HTML document.

In a related topic lets see how to change the background color of an HTML document. This is done by specifying the background color in the <BODY> tag of the HTML document.

```
<BODY BGCOLOR="BLUE">
</BODY>
```

Or you can specfy and image to be the background of the document.

```
<BODY BACKGROUND="bg.jpg">
</BODY>
```

While specifying colors and backgrounds always take care that the colors do not clash or are not too bright. There should be a harmony in the colors you use in your page. Here's some more on using colors in your HTML page.

Step 8 : Creating Tables

Do you need a table for two? Well here's how we serve it up. You can use tables in your HTML document to create multiple row and column tables. They can be used to create marksheets, timetables etc. You can place text or images or any other information within the cells of the tables. Tables are also very handy for creating complex layouts.

Creating A Basic 1 row X 2 column Table

First we specify the table with the <TABLE></TABLE> tags. We also specify the border size of the table. By default the BORDER size ie. no border.

```
<BODY >
<TABLE BORDER=1>
<TABLE>
</BODY>
```

Next we specify a row with <TR>..</TR> tags.

```
<BODY>
<TABLE BORDER=1>
<TR>
</TR>
```

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

Now lets put in some columns with the <TD> tag. It is also called the Table Data tag.

```
<BODY>
<TABLE BORDER=1>
<TR>
<TD></TD><TD></TD>
</TR>
<TABLE>
</BODY>
```

The text comes within the <TD></TD> tags.

```
<BODY>
<TABLE BORDER=1>
<TR>
<TD>Cell 1</TD><TD>Cell 2</TD>
</TR>
<TABLE>
</BODY>
```

And the complete product looks like...

Cell 1	Cell 2

The reason for this step by step explanation is that tables are a bit tricky and you have to be careful while specifying rows and columns. Lets take a look at a more complex example.

```
<BODY>
Marks
<TABLE BORDER=1>
<TR>
<TD>English</TD><TD>78</TD>
</TR>
<TR>
<TD>Maths</TD><TD>55</TD>
</TR>
<TR>
<TD>Science</TD><TD>67</TD>
</TR>
<TABLE>
</BODY>
```

Marks

English	78

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Maths	55
Science	67

Specifying Table Attributes

As you can see from the above examples the tables created are simple and a bit restricted. You can however customize the size and the look of your table. Lets take a look at the table attributes one by one.

BORDER : As we saw in the above example you can specify the size of the border in pixels. Here x it the number of pixels.

<TABLE BORDER=x>

For Border=0

Cell 1 Cell 2

For Border=1

Cell 1	Cell 2

For Border=5

Cell 1	Cell 2

WIDTH : This attribute sets the width of the table in pixels or in percentage of the screen.

<TABLE WIDTH=150>
or
<TABLE WIDTH=50%>

The tables appear as...

For WIDTH=150

Cell 1	Cell 2

For WIDTH=50%

Cell 1	Cell 2

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BGCOLOR : This attribute sets the background color of the table.

<TABLE BGCOLOR="RED">
or <TABLE BGCOLOR="GREEN">

For BGCOLOR="RED"

Cell 1	Cell 2

For BGCOLOR="GREEN"

Cell 1	Cell 2

CELLSPACING : This attribute sets the amount of space in pixels between the table frame and the individual cells.

<TABLE CELLSPACING=2 >

For CELLSPACING="0"

Cell 1	Cell 2

For CELLSPACING="4"

Cell 1	Cell 2

For CELLSPACING="10"

Cell 1	Cell 2

CELLPADDING : This attribute sets the amount of space in pixels between the sides of a cell and its content.

<TABLE CELLPADDING=2 >

For CELLPADDING="0"

Cell 1	Cell 2

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For CELLPADDING="4"

Cell 1	Cell 2

For CELLPADDING="10"

Cell 1	Cell 2

ALIGN : This attribute sets the table alignment. It can have three values ie. left, center or right.

<TABLE ALIGN="CENTER" >

For ALIGN="LEFT"

Cell 1	Cell 2

For ALIGN="CENTER"

Cell 1	Cell 2

For ALIGN="RIGHT"

Cell 1	Cell 2

Specifying Cell Attributes

We specify the cell attributes within the <TD> tag. Here it is important to note that changing the attribute of a cell will have an indirect effect on the entire table.

<TD BGCOLOR="RED" WIDTH=20>

Lets take a quick look at the cell attributes.

BGCOLOR : This attribute changes the background color of the individual cell.

Cell 1	Cell 2	Cell 2

WIDTH : This attribute changes the width in pixels of the individual cell.

Width 100	Width 150	Width 300

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Step 9 : Creating Fillout Forms

How would you like visitors to your page provide information about themselves, register for something, or just say Hi! All this can be done with CGI forms which your visitors can fill out online and the content will be e-mailed directly to you.

Creating a basic Feedback Form step by step.

Lets learn by putting together a basic feedback form for your page. We begin with the <FORM> tag.

```
<BODY>
<B>Feedback Form</b><BR>
<FORM>
</FORM>
</BODY>
```

Now we have to specify some parameters for the form.

```
<BODY>
<B>Feedback Form</b><BR>
<FORM ACTION="mailto:homepages@rediff.co.in" METHOD=POST>
</FORM>
</BODY>
```

The above has a two parameters ACTION and METHOD. The ACTION parameter specifies the action to be taken once the form has been submitted. It is usually a URL or as in the above example a mailto link. The METHOD specifies the form is sent to the server. It should be set to POST.

Now lets put some elements in the form. Form elements are the fields of information which the visitor has to fill out. Lets start with the name and email fields. For Form elements we use the <INPUT> tags.

```
<BODY>
<B>Feedback Form</b><BR>
<FORM ACTION="mailto:homepages@rediff.co.in" METHOD=POST>
Name : <INPUT NAME="NAME" TYPE=TEXT" SIZE=20><BR>
<BR>
Email : <INPUT NAME="EMAIL" TYPE=TEXT" SIZE=20><BR>
</FORM>
</BODY>
```

Here is how the two fields look..

Feedback Form

Name :

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Email :

Now we ask the user what he thinks of your page by providing a textbox for him to write his comments in.

```
<BODY>
<B>Feedback Form</b><BR>
<FORM ACTION="mailto:homepages@rediff.co.in" METHOD=POST>
Name : <INPUT NAME="NAME" TYPE=TEXT" SIZE=20><BR><BR>
Email : <INPUT NAME="EMAIL" TYPE=TEXT" SIZE=20><BR><BR>
Comments : <BR>
<TEXTAREA COLS=60 ROWS=7 NAME="COMMENT">
</TEXTAREA>
</FORM>
</BODY>
```

Feedback Form

Name :

Email :

Comments :

We now complete the form with a Submit button and a Reset button.

```
<BODY>
<B>Feedback Form</b><BR>
<FORM ACTION="mailto:homepages@rediff.co.in" METHOD=POST>
Name : <INPUT NAME="NAME" TYPE=TEXT" SIZE=20><BR><BR>
Email : <INPUT NAME="EMAIL" TYPE=TEXT" SIZE=20><BR><BR>
Comments : <BR>
<TEXTAREA COLS=60 ROWS=7 NAME="COMMENT">
</TEXTAREA><BR><BR>
<INPUT TYPE="SUBMIT" VALUE="Submit (Click only once)">
<INPUT TYPE="RESET" VALUE="Reset">
</FORM>
</BODY>
```

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Feedback Form

Name :

Email :

Comments :

Submit (Click only once) Reset

You now have a ready to use feedback form. When the visitor clicks on the submit button the information he has filled in the form will be e-mailed to you.

Step 10 : Miscellaneous

Here is some more useful information. Although inserting meta tags and adding comments in your file is not absolutely nescessary, its good practise to include them in your HTML document.

Meta Tags

MetaTags are what a lot of search engines use to add your page to their databases. They identify what your page is about and if you want your page to show up more actively in searches then you must have detailed meta tags. The meta tags are included within the <HEAD> and </HEAD> tags.

The two main types of meta tags are <META NAME="Description" CONTENT="content"> and <META NAME="Keywords" CONTENT="content">

Lets take a look at the description META tag. It contains a brief introduction of your site which is placed within the content field of this tag.

```
<META NAME="Description" CONTENT="This is a tutorial page
which gives detailed information on how to create your homepage.">
```

This description will be included when a search engine shows the results to a user which influnces whether he visits your site or not.

Now for the Keywords META tag..
This tag contains a list of all keywords relevant to your site. If your site is about yourself then the keywords can be *personal, homepage, biodata, photos, family, about, me, myself* and so on.

Here's an example of keywords we could use for this tutorial.

```
<META NAME="Keywords" CONTENT="tutorial, free, members, HTML,
homepage, tags, examples, learn, javscripts">
```

Note that the keywords are seperated by commas. Some browsers support keywords seperated by just spaces.

Avoid Overlapping Tags

Most HTML tags occour in begin-end pairs. These pairs are in the form

```
<tag>  ...  </tag>
```

where the indicates the beginning of a tag-pair, and the indicates the end. Also multiple tags can be used together.
But the thing to watch out for is that the two or more different start-end pairs do not get tangled up or overlap. For example..

The following pairs of tags overlap..

```
<start tag1><start tag2>  ...  </end tag1></end tag2>
<B><U>  ...  </B></U>
```

The correct order would be

```
<start tag1><start tag2>  ...  </end tag2></end tag1>
<B><U>  ...  </U></B>
```

The innermost pair has to has to be closed before the next outer tag can be closed. This is also called nesting of tags as the tags are nested within each other.

Another common and avoidable mistake is forgetting to put the end tag altogether.

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This would result in unpredictable results on your HTML page.

Commenting Your Files

Commenting files means to put remarks and comments in your HTML code just for your reference. These comments will have no affect on your HTML page. But it will help you to sort out your and mark parts of your code. It is ideal for lengthy and complicated pieces of HTML markup.

Comments are placed within the <!-- and --> tags.

```
<!-- This is a comment -->
<!-- And so is this one -->
```

Additional Online References

There are loads of sites on the net teaching you to create HTML pages. Here are some of them to get you started.

- http://www.htmlhelp.com/
- http://www.htmlguru.com/
- http://www.webreference.com/html/
- http://www.utoronto.ca/webdocs/HTMLdocs/NewHTML/intro.html

Reference Books

The following books are the advised by us.

- Who''s Afraid Of HTML
  Author: Todd Howard
- Teach Yourself Html 4 In 24 Hours
  Author: Oliver
- Html 4 Unleashed
  Author: Darnell
- Pocket Guide To The Internet
  Author: Gach Gary
- Internet Standards and Protocols
  Author: Dilip. C. Naik
- Where Wizards Stay up Late: The Origins of the Internet
  Author: Katie Hafner / Matthew Lyon
- Web Publishing Step by Step Interactive

Credits:

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The Organizers of Pulse 2006

Vidyalankar Institute of Technology, Wadala

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