Chapter 9, Learning Track 1
Creating a Web Page

skills

1. Introducing HTML
2. Introduction to Web Browsers
3. Using a Text Editor
4. Opening a Document to View its HTML Structure
5. Understanding Tags
6. Writing Tags and Editing HTML Pages
7. Saving Pages
8. Printing an HTML Document
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Creating an effective Web page requires a combination of creativity and technical know-how. While it is true that some Web designers work strictly from a graphics and layout background and some programmers concern themselves only with code, having both perspectives can be a great advantage to engineering a Web site. The creative side of Web page creation involves choosing colors, copy, images, organization, and styles that make up an attractive presentation for the viewer. The technical side requires that you know how to program a Web page so that it functions properly and efficiently.

The programming language used to create Web pages is HTML (Hypertext Markup Language). Many of the colorful and media-rich Web pages that you see online are actually created as text documents with a standard word processing application. Web browsers interpret the HTML code in these documents and display it as the formatted page you see on the Web. Although Web pages may look like complex documents, HTML is a relatively simple language to learn. In fact, you may find it easier to learn HTML than to choose from all of the colors, text styles, and page elements that HTML enables you to employ on a page.

A number of software companies have created graphical HTML editors that enable users to create Web pages without learning HTML. Some of the more popular programs are Microsoft FrontPage, Adobe GoLive, and Macromedia Dreamweaver. These programs have WYSIWYG interfaces that translate your button and menu clicks into HTML code and display the results automatically. While providing convenience and a level of comfort, these applications also have limitations. Users often edit the HTML that the programs produce in order to enhance and extend the features of their Web pages. By learning HTML, you can ensure that your Web pages reach their potential, whether you start from scratch or use packaged software.

Lesson Goal:

In this lesson, you will learn how to plan and organize a Web site. You will also learn how to create HTML documents and Web pages, enter text and insert graphics on Web pages, and create hyperlinks to other files. After you have become comfortable with the fundamentals, you will be introduced to more advanced skills, such as creating forms and publishing Web pages.

skill 1 Introducing HTML

overview

HTML (Hypertext Markup Language) is the computer programming language that is used to create Web pages. As programming languages go, HTML is easy to learn and does not require a background in computer programming. Basic HTML requires an understanding of how the code works, a period of studying, and, most of all, practice. It also doesn't hurt to have a good memory!

The instructions that an HTML document provides for a Web browser are called **tags**. Each tag determines what page element the Web browser will display and how the element will be presented. For example, one tag may tell the browser to display a line of text in italics and another may tell the browser to format a Web address as a hyperlink. Using HTML tags, you can insert and place image files, tables, dividing lines, sounds, video, and page backgrounds.

When you look at a raw HTML document, it looks nothing like the translated Web page that a Web browser displays. HTML documents are plain text or ASCII files. To the uninitiated, an HTML document will look like lines of text thrown haphazardly on a page between less than (<) and greater than (>) symbols. In fact, most Web surfers never see the HTML **source page** that is the basis for the Web pages they are viewing in their browsers. HTML documents are written and saved as text-only documents, which makes them versatile enough for nearly all computers to read and interpret. A Web surfer views his or her Web browser's interpretation of such an HTML source page online. However, it is also possible to view the source page of any Web page that you come across on the Internet. The View menu in most Web browsers contains a command for viewing source pages. The name of the command differs from browser to browser, but is generally something like Page Source, Source, or HTML Source.

Viewing the page source of other Web pages is a valid way to learn HTML design principles. When you view a page source, it generally opens in a simple text editor like Notepad. From there you can save it to your hard drive as a text document to view, edit, or experiment with. Keep in mind that much of the content on the Web is subject to copyright laws, so you should use other people's HTML source code only for educational purposes.

It is important to recognize that HTML is a living, changing language. The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) was established in 1994 to standardize the development of HTML. Maintaining a standard version of the language proved to be difficult as the companies who designed browsers, such as Microsoft and Netscape, added proprietary features to HTML that didn't function well in all browsers. However, understanding how HTML works will enable you to keep a firm grasp on these changing technologies.

This book will teach you how to compose a Web page by using HTML tags to create Web pages that meet your requirements. In **Figure 1-1**, you can see the HTML source code for the United States Government's **Recreation.gov** home page on the Internet. You will notice that HTML uses regular English words along with a collection of abbreviations, many of which you will soon learn. Then you will be able to identify which HTML tags are connected to which graphical elements on a Web page. **Figure 1-2** shows the Recreation.gov home page as it appears in a Web browser.

Figure 1-1 Page source for home page of Recreation.gov

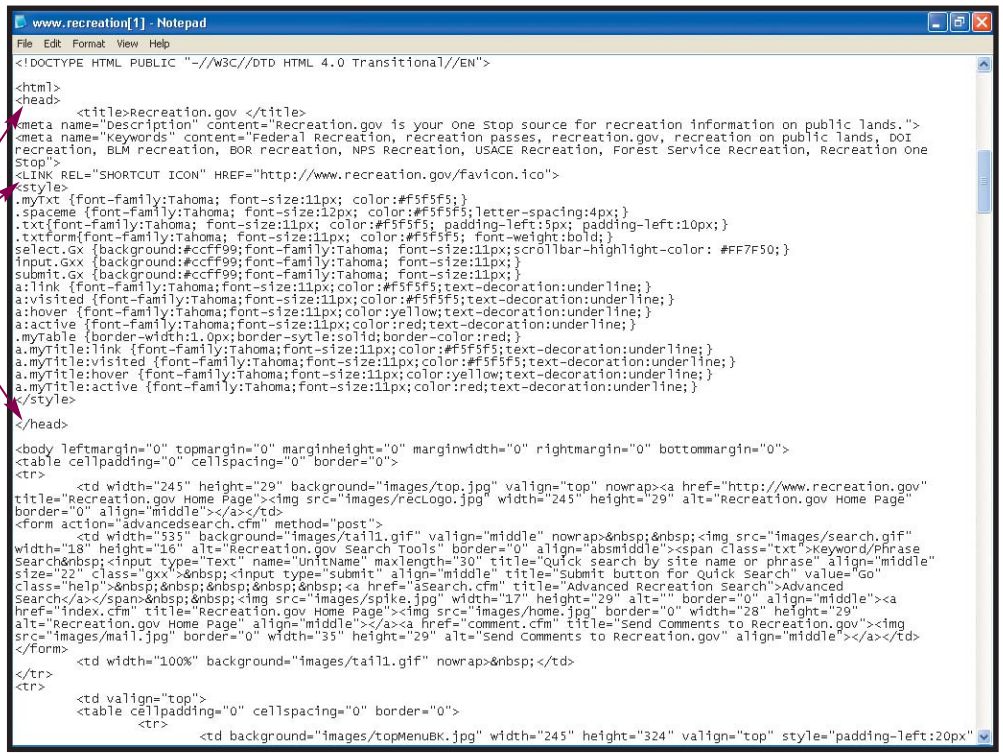
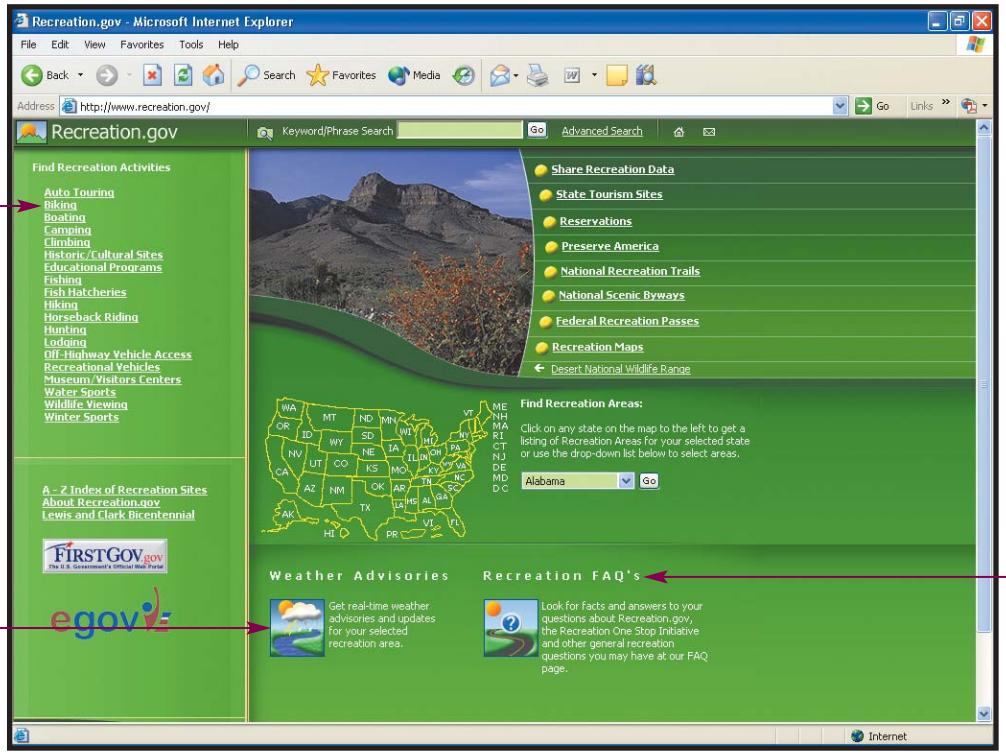


Figure 1-2 Home page of Recreation.gov viewed in Microsoft



skill 2 Introduction to Web Browsers

overview

A **Web browser** is a computer application that translates the programming code of HTML documents and displays it as formatted page in the browser window. One of the great advantages of HTML is that it is a cross-platform language. It does not matter if your computer uses Windows, the Macintosh OS, or Linux as its operating system; you will be able to view the same pages on the World Wide Web as everyone else, regardless of your operating system or geographic location.

Of course, the various manufacturers of Web browsers have introduced differences into their programs that can alter the way in a which page is displayed depending on the browser you are using. As alluded to in the previous skill, the different manufacturers extend the capabilities of their browsers with their own technology. If a Web page builder designs a page with one browser in mind, the page may not function as planned in another browser. However, a good designer will test his or her creation on numerous browsers to see that it is compatible with a wide range. The different Web browsers also may have different default settings for displaying page elements like fonts. That is why you may see a difference in formatting when viewing the same Web page on two different computers or with two different browsers.

In recent years, the most popular Web browser in the world has been Microsoft Internet Explorer. Internet Explorer continues to dominate the browser market but does share it with several other browsers including **Mozilla Firefox**, **Netscape** (based on Mozilla technology), and **Safari** (for the Macintosh). **Figure 1-3** shows the Recreation.gov home page in the Firefox browser and **Figure 1-4** shows the same page in Netscape. If you look carefully, you may notice subtle differences in the displayed page, even though the same HTML source is used (also refer back to Figure 1-2 on page HT 1.3 to see the page displayed in Internet Explorer). This is because the browsers have interpreted the source code differently. As a result of good design principles, the page does display properly in all of the browsers. Other browsers might not be able to display all of the fonts or screen elements that are on the page.

In this era of Internet usage it is easy to assume that most people have fast computers with high-speed Internet connections. However, when designing Web pages, you should take into account who your target audience will be and whether most members of that audience will have the latest technology available to them. A significant percentage of Web users still connect to the Internet via dial-up connections. Therefore, it is not always wise to pack a Web page with a lot of large graphic, sound, video, and animation files, especially when text will fulfill your goals.

Figure 1-3 Home page of Recreation.gov viewed in the Mozilla

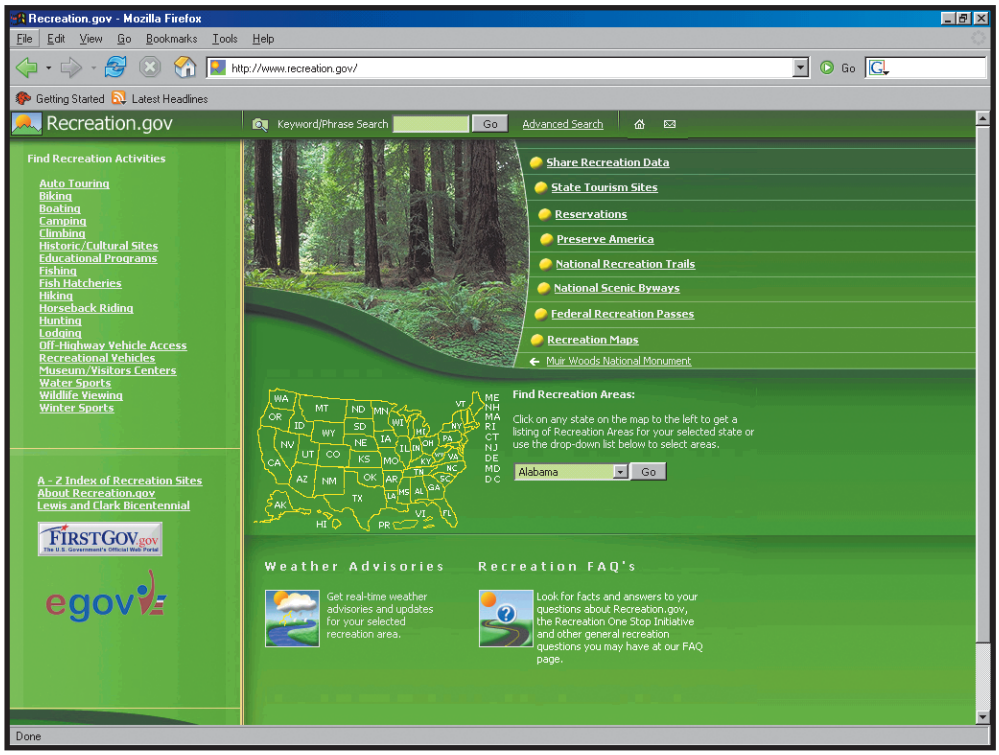


Figure 1-4 Home page of Recreation.gov viewed in the

skill 3 Using a Text Editor

overview

Most of today's common operating systems come with a free simple word processor, also known as a **text editor**. These types of text editors are ideal for composing HTML documents because they do not apply any additional proprietary formatting to the text as some more robust word processing programs do. In this book, we will use the **Notepad** text editor that comes with Microsoft Windows XP. Notepad and other text editors, such as **WordPad** for Windows, **Simple Text** and **Teach Text** for the Macintosh, and **Pico** for Unix, enable you to save your HTML documents in ASCII or plain text format.

how to

Open the Notepad text editor from the Start menu in Windows XP.

1. Click  on the Windows taskbar to open the **Start** menu.
2. Point to **All Programs** on the Start menu to open the **All Programs** submenu.
3. Point to **Accessories** on the **All Programs** submenu to open the **Accessories** submenu.
4. Click **Notepad** on the **Accessories** submenu, as shown in **Figure 1-5** (your Start menu may not be identical to the one shown in the figure).
5. The Notepad text editor program opens (**Figure 1-6**).

extra

For the purposes of the exercises in this book, the instruction **click** means to press and release the left mouse button once. At times, the instructions may call for a **right-click**, which means to press and release the right-mouse button once. If you are instructed to **double-click**, press and release the left mouse button twice in rapid succession. If your mouse is configured for left-handed use, the mouse buttons referenced above should be reversed.

When Notepad opens, you are presented with a blank document. The vertical bar flashing in the upper-left corner of the document window is called the **insertion point**. The insertion point indicates the place where text will appear when you begin to type. In a blank document, you can move the insertion point to a new location by pressing **[Enter]**, **[Spacebar]**, or **[Tab]** on the keyboard. Once you have entered text in a document, you can place the insertion point anywhere in the text by clicking with the mouse.

Figure 1-5 Opening Notepad from the Start menu

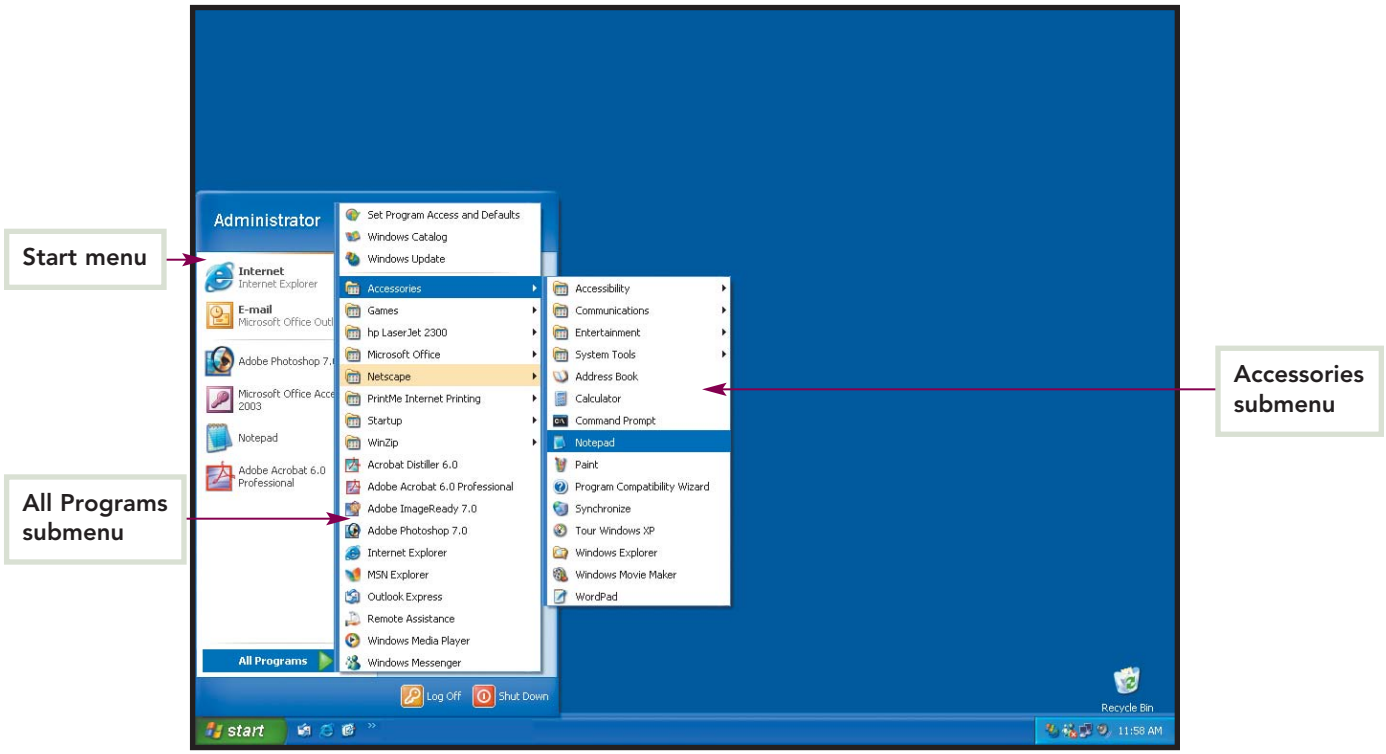
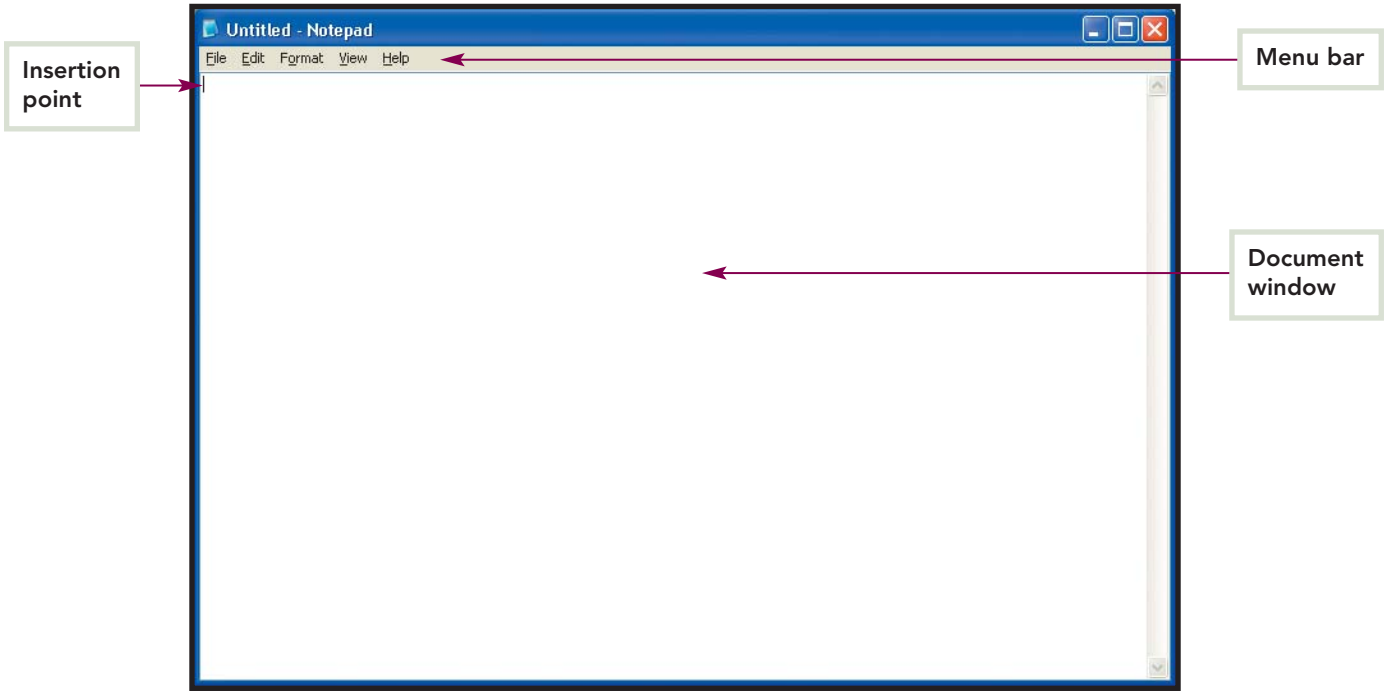


Figure 1-6 The Notepad application window



skill 4 Opening a Document to View its HTML Structure

overview

Before you learn how to write a Web page using HTML, you should become familiar with the basic structure of an HTML document. HTML pages have specific sections in which you will learn to place the appropriate HTML tags. You will also need to know how to use Notepad to open existing HTML documents to complete them or update them.

how to

Open an HTML document in Notepad and view its basic structure.

1. Open Notepad from the Start menu, if necessary.
2. Click **File** on the **Menu** bar, and then click **Open**. The **Open** dialog box appears.
3. Click the drop-down arrow in the **Look in** box to open a list of the drives and locations on your computer **(Figure 1-7)**.
4. Click the drive or location on the list that contains your **HTML Student Data Files** folder. In this example, the folder appears on the Look in list because it is a subfolder of the **Desktop** folder.
5. Once you have selected the parent folder of the HTML Student Data Files folder on the Look in list, use the contents window to navigate to the HTML Student Data Files folder. Then, double-click the HTML Student Data Files folder to display its contents in the contents window.
6. Double-click the **Lesson 1** folder to open it.
7. Click the file named **hthowto1-4.txt** to select it.
8. Click 

to open the selected file. The file opens in Notepad **(Figure 1-8)**, showing the basic structure of an HTML document.
9. Click  to close the file and the Notepad application.

tip

Your instructor may provide you with different instructions for storing and accessing your data files.

tip

If Windows is set to hide extensions of known file types, you will see the file listed without the .txt file extension.

extra

Every page that is written in HTML begins and ends with **HTML** tags. The first HTML tag informs the browser that the source code that it is about to read is written in HTML. The second tag marks the end of the page. The **Head** tag introduces the heading section of the document, which appears in the browser's title bar when the page is opened (unless the Title tag is used as well). The heading or title text also appears as the title of favorites, bookmarks, and search engine listings. The **Body** tag indicates the beginning of the page's actual content, including all text and links to images and other files. Most of the HTML commands that you learn will be plugged into the body section of this standard structure.

Notepad can keep only one file open at a time. If you are working on one file and try to open a second file or create a new file, the first file will close. You will be prompted to save changes to the first file before it closes and is replaced in the window by the second file. You can always use the Open command on the file menu to return to a file later.

Figure 1-7 The Open dialog box

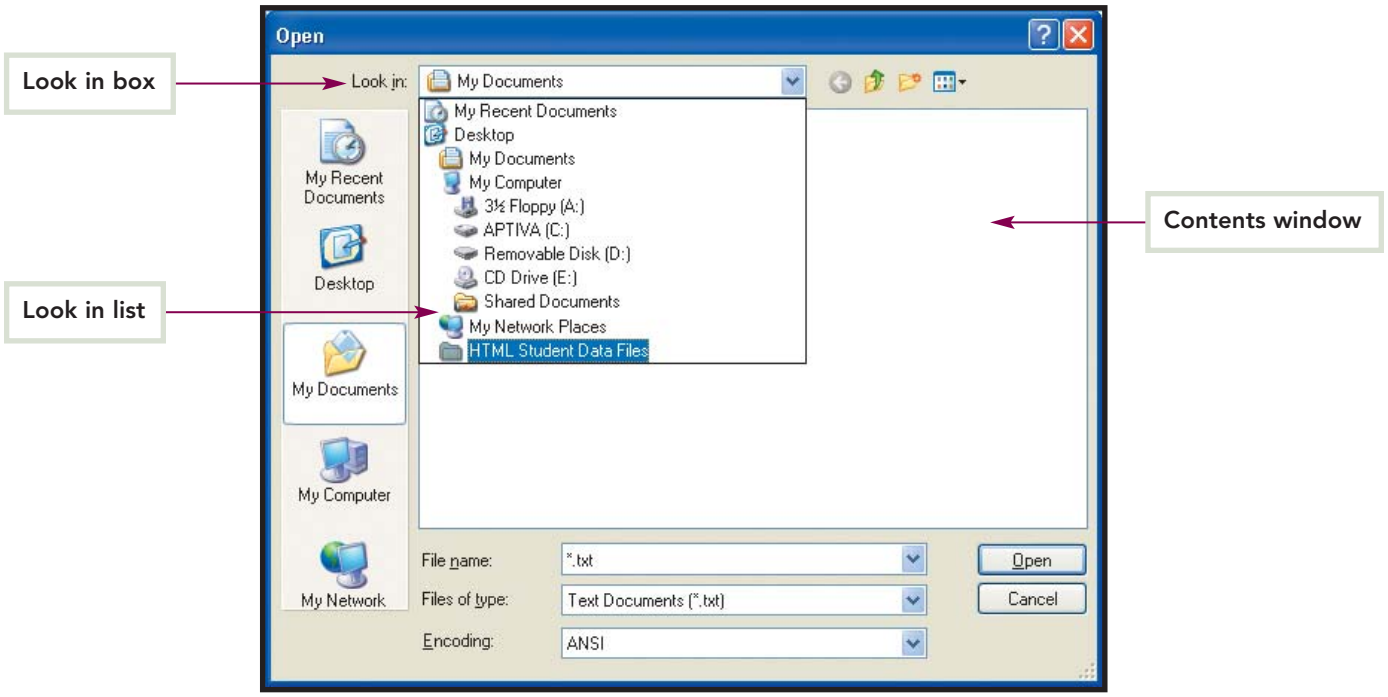
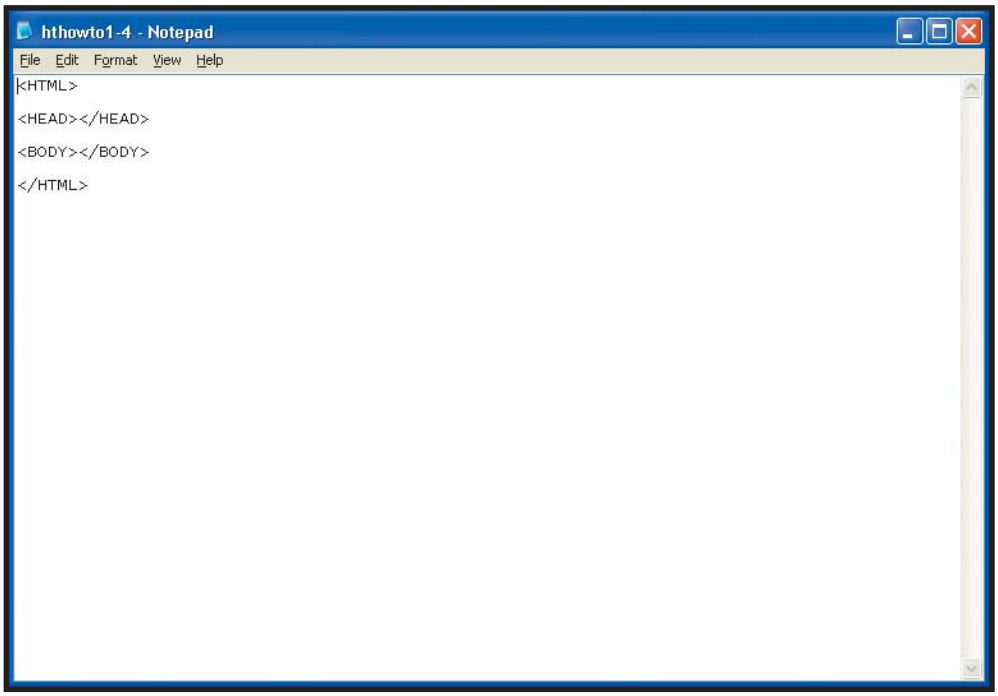


Figure 1-8 The basic structure of an HTML document in Notepad



Practice

Open the file **htprac1-4.txt** from your **HTML Student Data Files** folder in **Notepad** and review the three major sections of the basic HTML page structure. Close the file when you finish.

skill 5 Understanding Tags

overview

HTML commands are known as tags. As you have learned, a Web browser translates tags to display the components of a Web page in a specific manner. You can easily recognize the tags in an HTML document because they set off from the text and confined by **angle brackets: < >**. Many HTML tags must be used as a set with an opening tag and a closing tag for a Web browser to interpret them properly. Opening and closing differ in that a closing tag is preceded by a **forward slash**, **/**. For example, HTML documents begin with the **<HTML>** tag, which signals that HTML code follows, and end with the **</HTML>** tag, which signifies the end of the page **(Figure 1-9)**. Only text that is between the opening and closing tags is acted upon by the tags. HTML tags often appear in uppercase letters so that they stand out from the rest of the document. Using lowercase letters for tags works just as well, but lowercase tags are more difficult to find when you are searching through many lines of source code.

More than one set of HTML tags can act upon text on a page. This is made obvious by the fact that both the <HEAD></HEAD> and <BODY></BODY> sets of tags begin and end within the opening and closing <HTML></HTML> tags. Note that all tags that appear within another set of tags should close within that set (i.e., <X><Y></Y></X>). You can see examples of multiple tags acting on text in **Figure 1-10**, which shows the page source for the home page of the **Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (www.iana.org)**.

You can apply more specific characteristics to an HTML tag by using commands called **attributes**. Attributes specify characteristics such as color, font, or size for an element of a Web page. The proper format of a tag with an attribute is **<TAG ATTRIBUTE>**. There is no limit to the number of attributes that can be used with a tag. See **Figure 1-10** for examples of tags with attributes.

Most attributes require further instructions to specify how the attribute should appear, apply, or take shape. These instructions are known as **values**. For example, when you apply a background color to a Web page, you must specify what color the background should be. Or, if you put a border around a picture, you can specify how thick the border should be. Values usually appear in quotation marks and are formatted as **<TAG ATTRIBUTE="Value">**. **Figure 1-10** also displays examples of values.

When translating an HTML source page, a Web browser does not recognize the spaces, line breaks, and paragraphs that you have inserted while writing the code. You can use spaces and returns to help you organize your HTML documents and make it easier to find specific portions of the code. However, if you want spaces, line breaks, and paragraphs to appear on your Web page when it displays in a browser, you must use the HTML tags for these items (e.g.,
 for a line break). Some tags do result in automatic spaces or line breaks. The Header tag, for example, includes an automatic line break.

Figure 1-9 Opening and closing tags

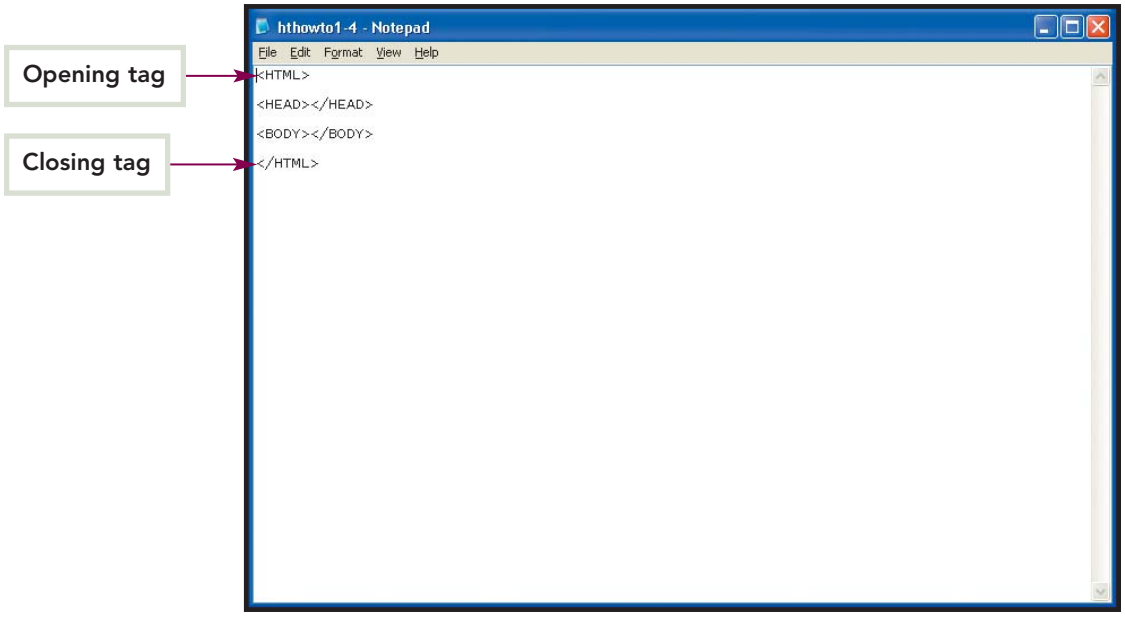
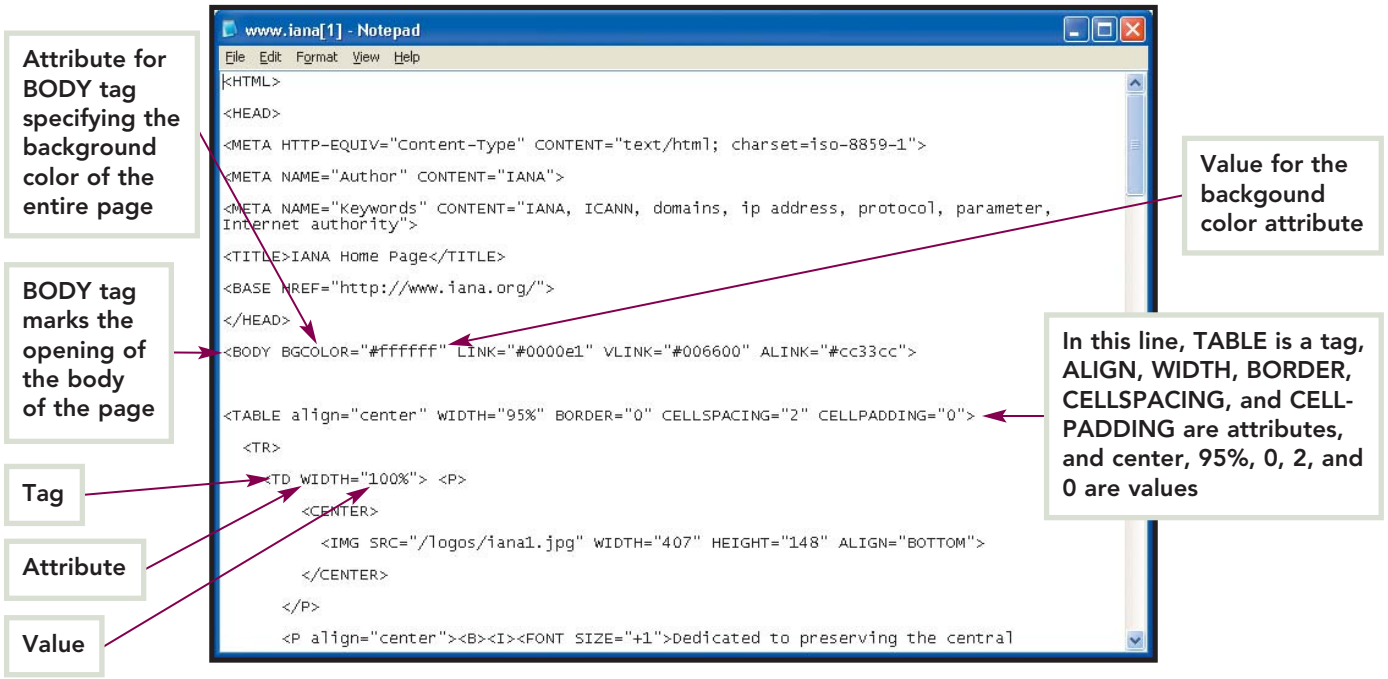


Figure 1-10 Page source for IANA home page



Practice

Practice viewing the page source for a Web page. First, open your Web browser and go to any Web page. Then, use the appropriate command on the View menu to open the HTML source page for the Web page you are viewing. Identify tags, attributes, and values in the source document. Close the page source and the browser when you finish.

skill 6 Writing Tags and Editing HTML Pages

overview

Now that you know the fundamentals of tags and how they work with attributes and values, you can begin composing a simple Web page with basic tags. Initially, it may take you a while to compose even the simplest of Web pages. You may forget things like using a closing tag, placing the forward slash before the closing tag, and placing tags within angle brackets. However, with repetition, the basic tags will become routine and you can begin to develop a repertoire of more complex tags.

how to

Create the structure of a basic Web page in HTML.

1. Click start, point to **All Programs**, point to **Accessories**, and click **Notepad** to open the **Notepad** text editor.
2. At the top of the blank document, type **<HTML>**. The opening angle bracket (<) is created by holding the **[Shift]** key down and pressing the **comma [,]** key at the same time. The closing angle bracket (>) is formed by holding down **[Shift]** and pressing the period **[.]** key.
3. Press **[Enter]** twice to leave a blank line.
4. Type **<BODY>** and press **[Enter]** again.
5. On the next line, type **</BODY>** and then press **[Enter]** twice.
6. Type **</HTML>**. The document should now look like **Figure 1-11**.
7. Move the mouse pointer to the blank line between the opening HTML tag and the opening BODY tag. While over the text, the mouse pointer will take the shape of an I-beam. Click the blank line with the I-beam to place the insertion point there and press **[Enter]**.
8. Type **<HEAD>** and press **[Enter]**.
9. Type **</HEAD>** and press **[Enter]**. You now have the basic structure of an HTML page (**Figure 1-12**).
10. Close Notepad without saving the file.

tip

Blank lines that you insert by pressing [Enter] in the HTML document do not appear in the Web page.

extra

It is a good idea to use extra spaces and lines when you are designing a Web page, especially when you are a beginner. Again, these spaces will not show up in the final product, but they will make it easier for you to read the page. You are more likely to make mistakes when all of your tags are crowded together on the same line and on consecutive lines. Advanced designers worry less about legibility and clarity.

There are several ways to edit existing text in an HTML document using Notepad. To erase a character or characters, place the insertion point just to the left of the text you want to erase and then press [Delete] as many times as necessary. Alternatively, place the insertion point to the right of the text and press [Backspace] to delete the text. If you double-click a string of characters that has no spaces (such as a word or a Web address), the entire string will be selected and you can press [Delete] or [Backspace] to delete all of the characters at once. You can also simply begin typing to replace selected text with new text.

Figure 1-11 HTML and BODY tags

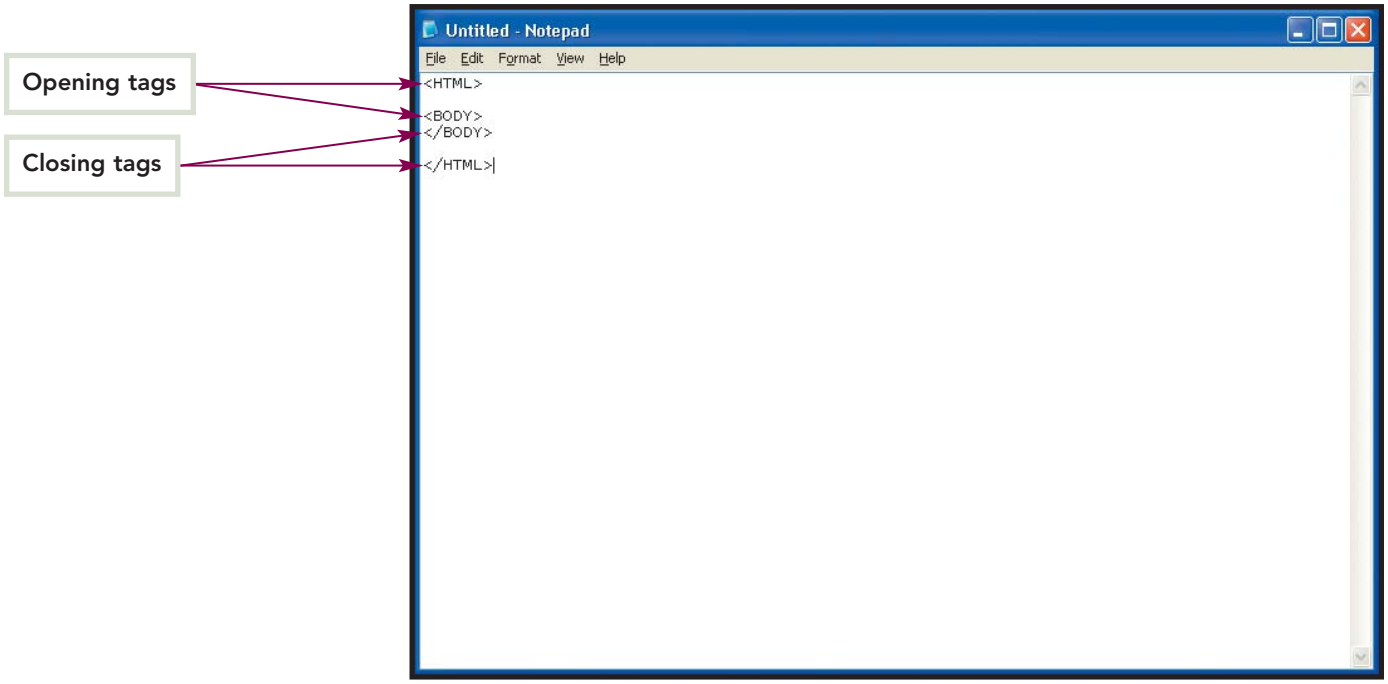
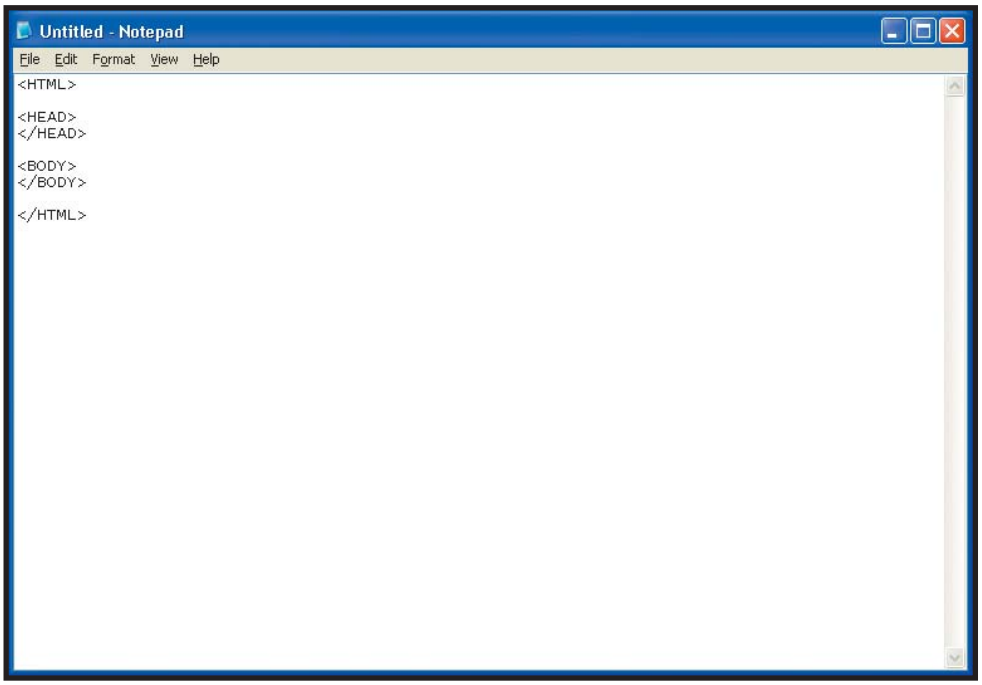


Figure 1-12 Completed page structure



Practice

Open **Notepad** again and create an HTML page exactly like the one you created in this skill. Save this page as **htprac1-6.txt** and then close the file. If you are not sure how to save a file properly, complete the next skill first and then return to this Practice exercise.

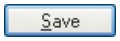
skill 7 Saving Pages

overview

Saving your work is one of the most basic and most important skills related to using a computer. Once you learn HTML, you will be able to create a simple page in a matter of minutes. However, more complex pages could require days or even weeks to complete. You will need to know how to save a document properly so that you can return to it later. You will also need to know how to save it in the correct format. Save your files often while you are working with them to guard against the loss of data that can occur as a result of power failures or computer errors.

how to

Save an existing HTML source document with a different name.

1. Open **Notepad** using the **Start** menu.
2. Open the Student Data File named **hthowto1-7.txt**.
3. Click **File** on the **Menu** bar and then click **Save As** to open the **Save As** dialog box.
4. Use the **Save in** list box or the **Location** bar and the contents window to select the folder in which you are saving your Student Data Files.
5. Double-click the existing text in the **File name** text box to select the current name of the file.
6. Type **home** to replace the selected file name with a new name (**Figure 1-13**).
7. Click 

to save the file in the location you selected with the new name, home. You did not change the **Save as type** setting, so the file remains a .txt file. Notice that the title bar of the Notepad window displays the new file name (**Figure 1-14**).

tip

You can use these same steps to save a new source document.

extra

To open the home document you just saved, you can use the steps you learned in a previous skill or double-click the file's icon in **My Computer** or **Windows Explorer**. If you saved the file to your desktop, you can also double-click the file icon there.

Before going further, you should take a minute to learn the differences between the **Save** command and the **Save As** command. When you save a document for the first time, both commands open the Save As dialog box so that you can choose a storage location, file name, and file type for the file. Once this has been done, the Save command no longer opens the Save As dialog box. Instead, it overwrites the existing file with the new file, enabling you to save the changes you have made. Once you use the Save command, the old version of the file no longer exists, unless you have a backup copy stored elsewhere. In a situation where a file has already been saved, you can use the Save As command to save a different version of the file with a new name and/or location. In this case, the old version of the file will still exist, but it will be replaced as the active document in Notepad by the new version.

When you are ready for your HTML source page to become a Web page, you must save the document with a different file extension. A Web browser reads a document with the .txt extension as plain text, and would therefore display your HTML code as you wrote it rather than as the formatted Web page you intended. To create a Web page out of the source page, change the file extension to **.html** in the **File name** text box. Most home pages are titled home.html, index.html, or default.html. Once you have saved a source page with the .html extension, the page will open in a Web browser and display the fonts, colors, images, and other formatting options that your HTML tags specify. The file's icon will change from the Notepad icon to the icon of your default Web browser.

Figure 1-13 The Save As dialog box

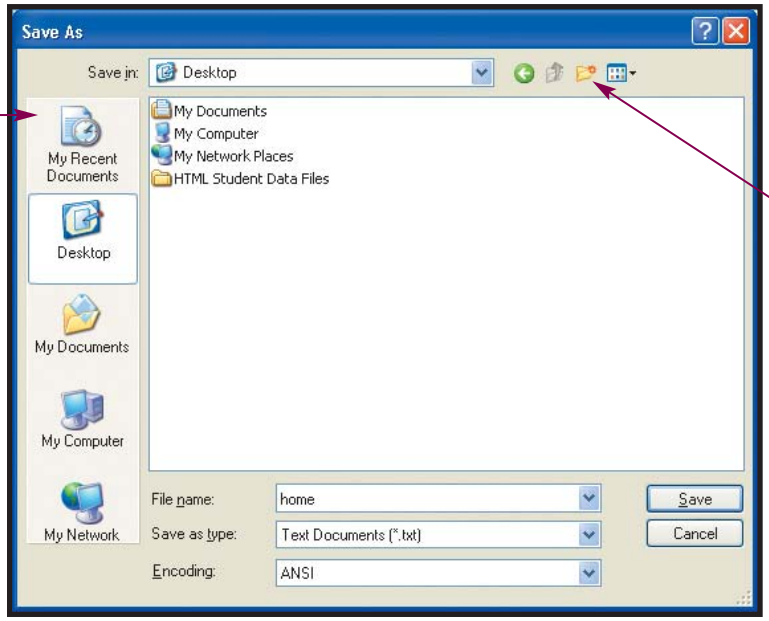
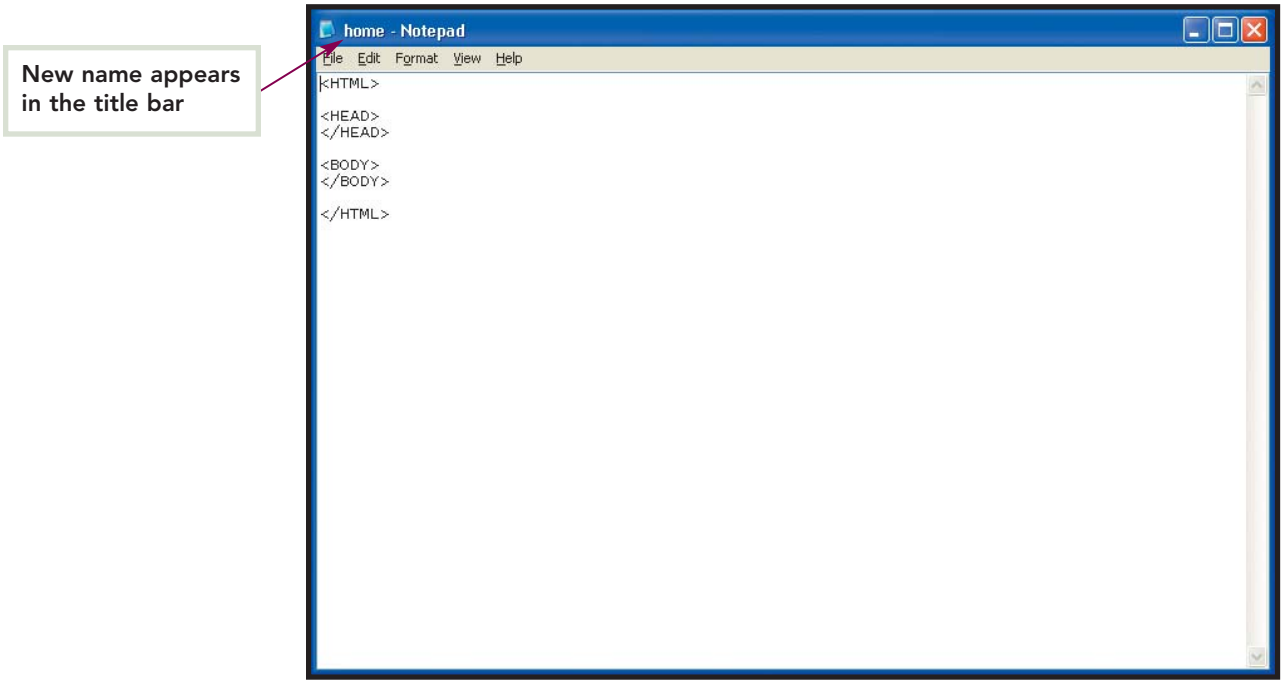


Figure 1-14 HTML document saved with new name



Practice

Open the Student Data File **htprac1-7.txt** in Notepad and save it on your desktop as **Index.html**. Close the file when you are done.

skill 8 Printing an HTML Document

overview

Working with electronic documents is fast, convenient, and orderly. However, there may be instances in which you prefer to work with a hard copy of an HTML page source. You might find it easier to make notes and revisions or locate errors by sitting at your desk with a paper copy of your document rather than by looking at a screen. Therefore, you should learn how to print a hard copy of your HTML page source.

how to

Print a hard copy of an HTML document from Notepad.

1. Use **Notepad** to open the **Index2.txt** file from your **HTML Student Data Files** folder.
2. Click **File** on the Menu bar and then click **Page Setup** to open the **Page Setup** dialog box (**Figure 1-15**). If the settings in your Page Setup dialog box do not match the settings shown in the figure, make the necessary changes so that you have matching settings.
3. Click 

to close the Page Setup dialog box.
4. Click **File** and then click **Print** to open the **Print** dialog box (**Figure 1-16**). In the Print dialog box, you can select which printer to use if you have more than one printer available, change the printing preferences of the selected printer, select a page range to print from the document, select how many copies of the document to print, and collate multiple-copy print jobs.
5. Click 

to print the document using the default print settings.
6. Close Notepad and do not save any changes to the Index2.txt file.

extra

The **Page Setup** dialog box provides options that affect how a document appears on a printed page. In the **Paper** section of the dialog box, you can select both a paper size and the printer tray that will be the source of the paper. The **Orientation** section enables you to switch the page from Portrait (vertical) orientation to Landscape (horizontal) orientation. In the **Margins** section, you can set the positions of the page's four margins. At the bottom of the dialog box, you can specify a header and a footer for the page. **Headers and footers** are text that appears on the top and bottom, respectively, of every page of a printed document.

Figure 1-15 The Page Setup dialog box

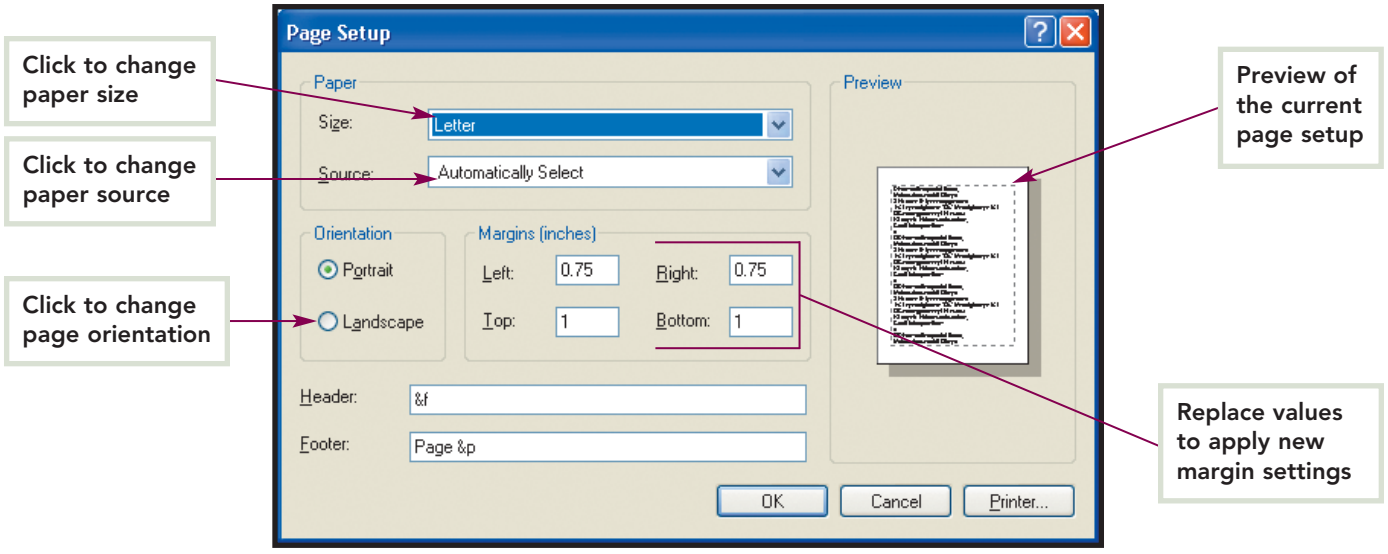
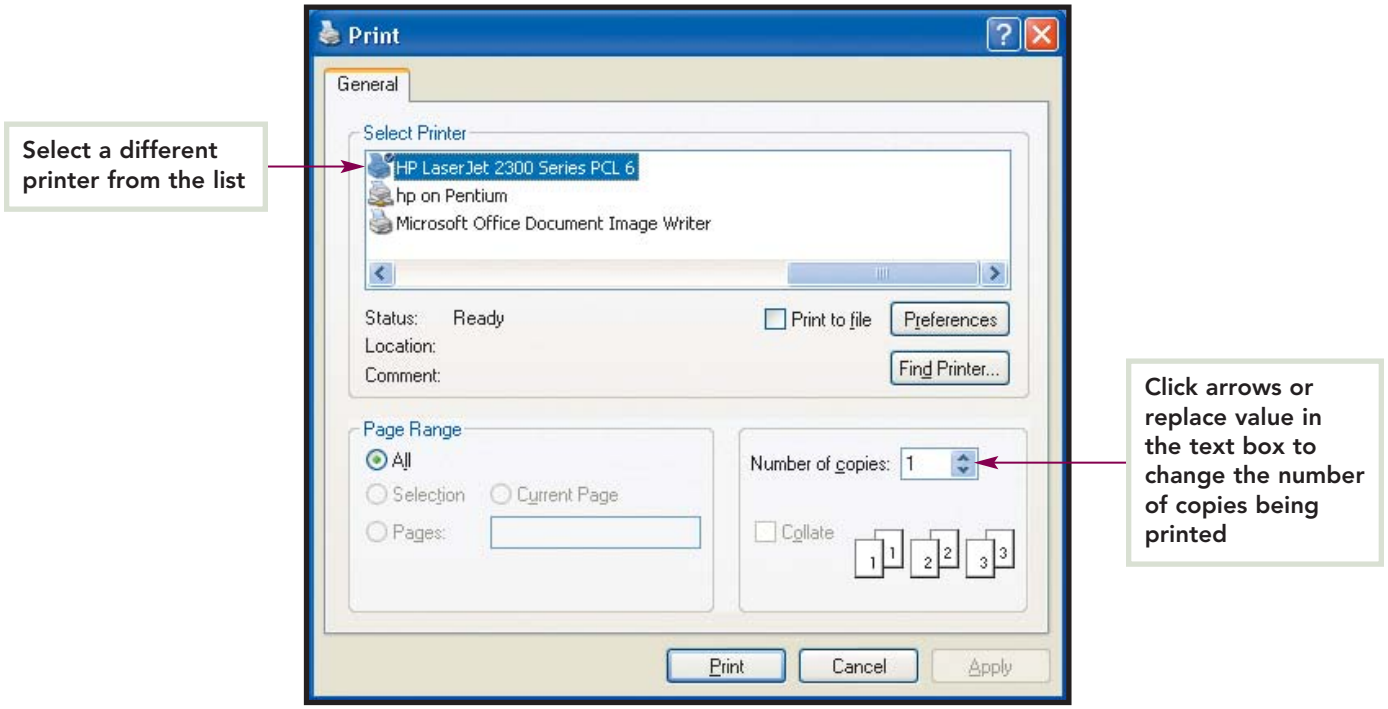


Figure 1-16 The Print dialog box



Practice

Print a hard copy of the **Index.html** file that you created in the previous skill. Close the file when you finish without saving any changes.

skill 9 Planning a Web Site

overview

Before you begin writing the source code for a Web page, you should plan the page. The tone of your Web pages may be much different depending on whether they are geared for a business site or a personal site. Some of the questions you should answer are as follows:

- What is the purpose of the page?
- Will one page suffice, or will I create a Web site made up of many pages?
- How many pages will it take to accomplish all of the site's goals?
- What type of information do I need to include?
- Who is the intended audience?
- What image do I want to convey to the audience?
- Does my audience have bandwidth restrictions?
- Does my audience have hardware or software restrictions?

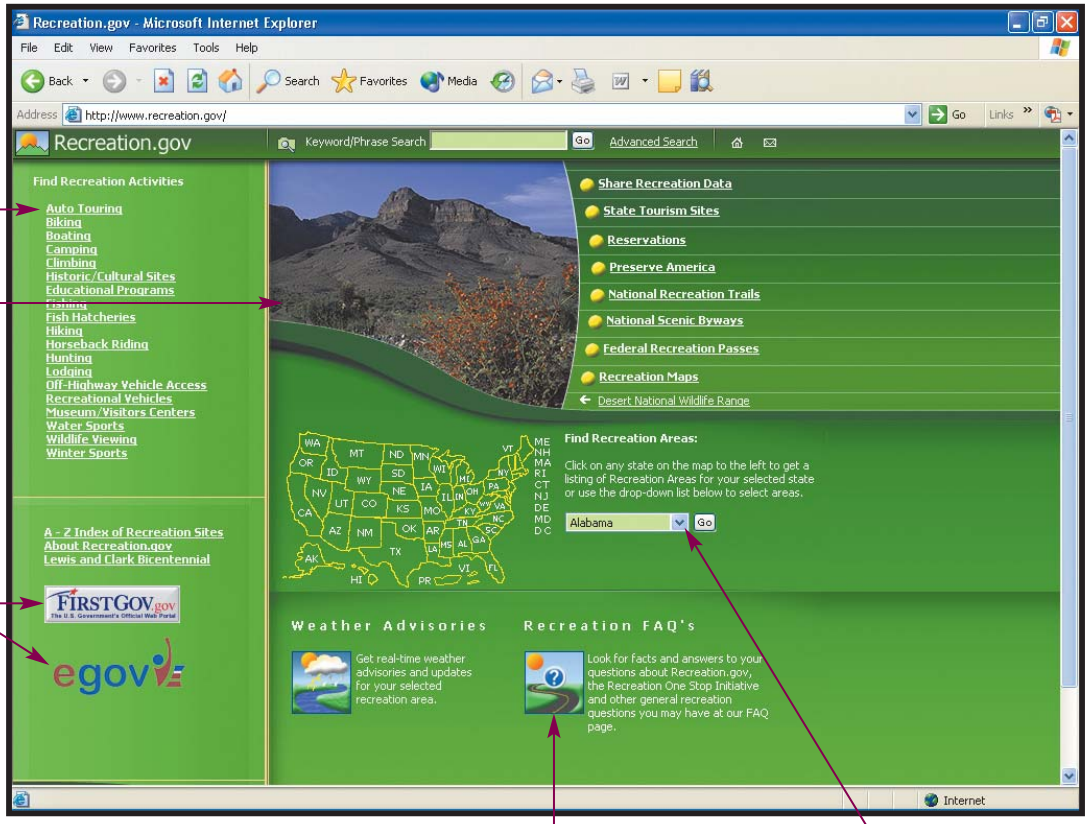
You may want to take the time to draw a diagram of your Web site, especially if it going to involve a substantial number of pages. A diagram can help you visualize the site. You can portray what content each of the pages will hold and how the pages will connect to each other. The connections between pages are in the form of **hyperlinks**, which are objects (text, pictures, animations) that Web browsers can click to access quickly other pages and files on the site. You can also create hyperlinks to Web pages on other sites that you think might be useful to viewers of your site.

Navigation of your site should be straightforward and user-friendly. Otherwise, visitors to your Web pages may become frustrated and leave the site before they can figure out how to use it. Toward that end, the text or image that you use as a hyperlink should have an obvious connection to the link's target, if not spell it out exactly. If you code your links accurately and name your pages and files properly and consistently, you will have an easier time maintaining the site and visitors will have a better browsing experience.

The Web itself is an excellent tool for learning Web design. Spend some time browsing other sites to see what you like and don't like, what works and what doesn't. You will come across multitudes of different styles, page structures, site structures, and page elements. You can incorporate numerous elements into a Web page including photographs, drawn graphics, sounds, video, tables, drop-down lists, and forms. In the end, make sure that the choices you make for your own site reflect your own work and your needs.

Figure 1-17 presents an example of a Web page and some of the content and organizational elements that the page uses.

Figure 1-17 Recreation.gov home page



Links to other pages in the Web site

Photograph

Graphics linked to other related Web sites

Drawn graphic

Drop-down list

shortcuts

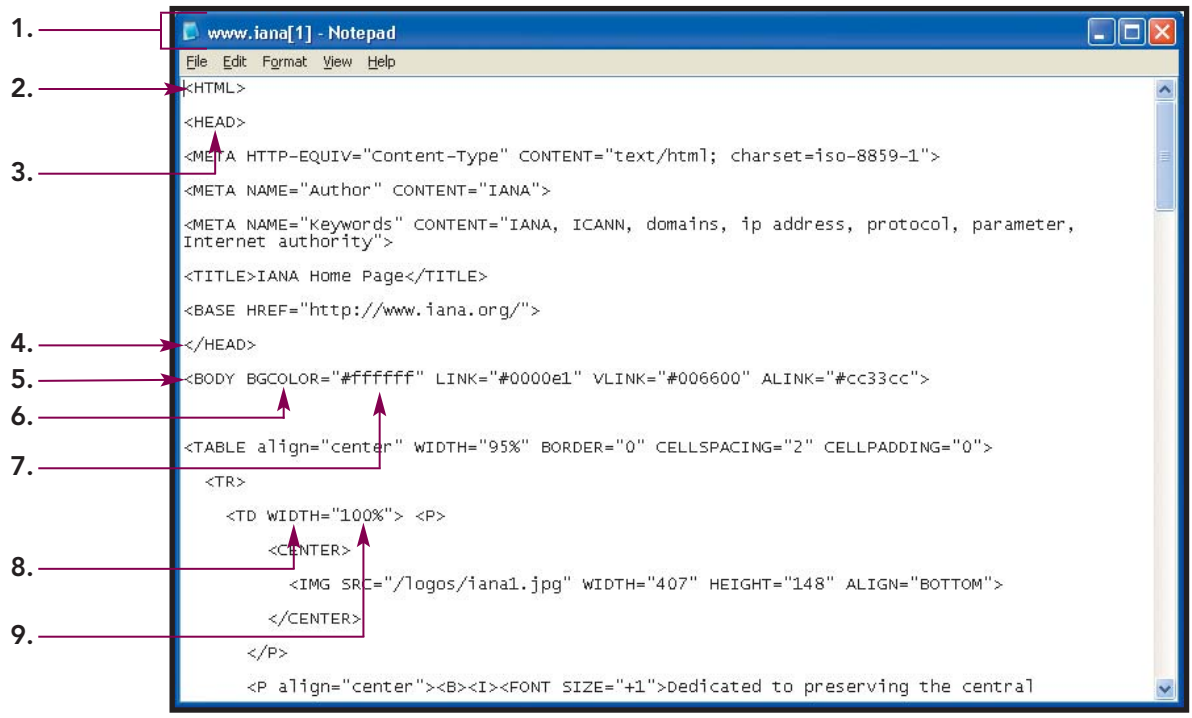
Function	Opening Tag	Closing Tag
Signifies that the file is written in HTML	<HTML>	</HTML>
Marks the beginning of the Web page	<HEAD>	</HEAD>
Marks the body of the Web page	<BODY>	</BODY>
Applies an attribute to a tag	<TAG ATTRIBUTE>	</TAG>

quiz

A. Identify Key Features

Name the items indicated by callouts in Figure 1-18.

Figure 1-18 An HTML page source



B. Select the Best Answer

10. The programming language used to write Web pages	a. Attribute
11. An HTML document that can be accessed through the Internet	b. Body
12. A simple word processor such as Notepad	c. HTML
13. Another name for HTML commands	d. Page Setup
14. An application that enables you to view Web pages	e. Tags
15. The main section of a Web page with all of the text and page elements	f. Text editor
16. Applies more specific characteristics to a tag	g. Value
17. Specifies how an attribute should appear	h. Web browser
18. The command that enables you to control aspects of a printed page, such as paper size and margins	i. Web page

quiz (continued)

C. Complete the Statement

19. Most HTML commands require:
    a. Size values
    b. Opening and closing tags
    c. Uppercase letters
    d. Color values

20. Which of the following is true about viewing the page source of a Web page on the Internet?
    a. It is illegal
    b. It requires permission from the author
    c. It is not possible
    d. It a good way to learn HTML

21. All of the following are elements of HTML except:
    a. Vectors
    b. Values
    c. Tags
    d. Attributes

22. A good way to get inspiration for you own Web site is to:
    a. Copy someone else's page source and use it as your own
    b. View Web sites that are similar to yours
    c. Avoid being influenced by other sites
    d. Hire a Web designer

23. If you forget to add a closing tag:
    a. Your text editor should correct the error
    b. Your Web page should still display correctly
    c. Your Web page will not display correctly
    d. A Web browser can correct the error

24. The Save command is used to:
    a. Overwrite an existing document with changes
    b. Save a document under a new name and in a new location
    c. Save a document in a new location using the same name
    d. Save a document with a new name in the same location

25. You can print a page with horizontal orientation by:
    a. Setting wider margins
    b. Using longer paper
    c. Changing the page orientation to Portrait
    d. Changing the page orientation to Landscape

interactivity

Build Your Skills

1. Open the Notepad text editor program in Windows XP.

a. Click the **Start** button.

b. Point to **All Programs**.

c. Point to **Accessories**.

d. Click **Notepad**.

2. Open an HTML page source document in Notepad.

a. Click **File** on the Menu bar and then click **Open**.

b. Navigate to the folder that contains your **HTML Student Data Files**.

c. Open the **Lesson 1** folder

d. Open the file named **htskills1.txt**.

3. Write basic HTML tags in a blank Notepad document.

a. Click **File** and then click **New**. If prompted, do not save changes to htskills1.txt.

b. Type **<HTML>** and press **[Enter]**.

c. Type **<HEAD></HEAD>** and press **[Enter]**.

d. Type **<BODY></BODY>** and press **[Enter]**.

e. Type **</HTML>**.

4. Save a Notepad document as an HTML page source file and as a Web page.

a. Click **File** and then click **Save** or **Save As** to open the **Save As** dialog box.

b. Select a storage location and save the document as **Web Page.txt**.

c. Save the document again as **Web Page.html**.

5. Print an HTML page source document.

a. Click **File** and then click **Print** to open the **Print** dialog box.

b. Verify that the correct printer is selected and then click **Print** to print a hard copy of Web Page.html.

c. Close Notepad.

interactivity (continued)

Problem Solving Exercises

1. Congratulations! You have been hired to construct a Web site for Sal's Moving and Storage Company. Sal's Moving and Storage performs residential and commercial relocations seven days a week in the New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut area, and makes trips to Florida twice weekly. The company also owns a warehouse to accommodate customers who require long-term storage for the contents of their houses or offices. The owners of Sal's want to create a Web site for the company to reach more potential customers and improve customer service. Your job is to design the Web site. First, you must come up with ideas for a proposal. Start by visiting the Web sites of other moving and storage companies on the Internet. Take notes on how many pages a typical site has, how the pages are linked, what features and services the sites offer, and what kind of layouts, graphics, and multimedia elements are used. Then diagram and describe the basic structure of the site that you wish to propose to the owners of Sal's Moving and Storage, including the features and services you think the site should offer. Be sure to name each page specifically with a name that describes its function accurately and succinctly.

2. Next, create the basic structure for the first page you will build for the Sal's Moving and Storage Company Web site. You may use any basic text editor, such as NotePad or WordPad. Insert the basic tags needed for a Web page to create a template that you can develop further. Begin with the <HTML> tag and include Head and Body tags as well. Save this basic template file as **smsc.txt**.

3. At your first meeting with the owners of Sal's Moving and Storage Company, you will want to demonstrate that not only have you planned their Web site, but also you have begun working on it. Therefore, print two hard copies of the smsc.txt template document that you have created. Make sure that you have spaced the tags that you inserted well so that the document is easy to read and understand. Proofread the document to make sure that you haven't made any spelling errors or coding errors, such as forgetting a closing tag or a forward slash.

4. Plan an additional Web site for your own use that will be a forum for one of your personal interests. Focus on something that is important to you, such as an author, a musician, a sport, a geographic location, or an historical period. Create a basic outline for the site, and then visit other sites on the Internet that treat the same subject matter. Using the examples that you find and your own ideas, diagram this site and the pages it will contain. Finally, create a template with the basic structure of a Web page, as you did for the Sal's Moving and Storage site, and save this document as **personal.txt**.

Chapter 9, Learning Track 1
Creating a Web Page (Part 2)

In Lesson 1, you learned the basics of HTML programming and how to create a basic structure for a Web page. With this knowledge, you can begin to build your own Web pages that include text, graphics, and hyperlinks that connect the pages to other Web pages and files. The design and layout of a Web page can be as important as its content. The choices you make about text, formatting, page formatting, and organization play a major role in determining whether visitors will find your pages interesting and useful.

skills

1. Using Titles
2. Adding and Formatting Text
3. Working with Preformatted Text
4. Using Paragraphs and Line Breaks
5. Creating Lists
6. Adding and Formatting Tables
7. Understanding Anchors
8. Creating Hyperlinks
9. Adding Colors to a Web Page

Considering that the number of Web pages available to the general public now reaches into the billions, getting your work noticed on the Web is not an easy task. The range of the Web includes sparsely formatted sites that are repositories for information and elaborately designed entertainment hubs that feature movies, music, and interactive games.

Many of the more elaborate Web pages use technologies and programming languages in addition to HTML, such as Flash animation and JavaScript. However, on its own, HTML offers plenty of options to make your pages unique and appealing. Among these options are titles, preformatted text, lists, tables, anchors, and hyperlinks. Hyperlinks are one of the key elements of the Web because they allow users to move quickly to another Web page on any site that is part of the Web. You can also create hyperlinks that take the user from one portion of a Web page to another area on the same page. You will find that hyperlinks are one of the most important HTML features to learn.

Lesson Goal:

In this lesson, you will learn how to add titles to Web pages, insert and format text, and work with preformatted text. You will learn how to insert the HTML tags that enable you to create paragraphs and line breaks in Web pages. You will also learn how to format text to create lists and to insert and format tables. Finally, you will add colors to a Web page and insert anchors and hyperlinks to aid navigation within a Web site and to external sites.

skill 1 Using Titles

overview

Good design principles dictate that you should give a **title** to each Web page that you create. You set a page title with the the **<TITLE>** and **</TITLE>** tags. In the basic page structure, the Title tags occur between the opening and closing Head tags. The text that you insert between the opening and closing Title tags appears in the title bar of the browser window when the page is loaded, as well as in search engine results and bookmarks and favorites lists. Therefore, the text that you choose for a title should provide relevant details about the page and include keywords from the content of the page.

how to

Insert a title in a Web page.

1. Open the **home** document that you saved in the previous lesson in Notepad.
2. Move the I-beam mouse pointer just to the right of the opening **Head** tag and click to place the insertion point there.
3. Press **[Enter]** to create a blank line between the Head tags.
4. Type **<TITLE>Your Source Page: An HTML Community</TITLE>**. Your document should now look like **Figure 2-1**.
5. Click **File** on the Menu bar and then click **Save** to save the changes you have made to the document.
6. Click **File** and then click **Save As** to open the **Save As** dialog box.
7. Save the document to the desktop, the My Documents folder, or another location determined by your instructor as **home.html**.
8. Close Notepad.
9. Use **Windows Explorer** or **My Computer** to navigate to the folder in which you saved home.html (or simply go to the desktop).
10. Locate the home.html file, which should have the icon of your default Web browser. Double-click the icon to open the file in the browser **(Figure 2-2)**.
11. Close the browser window.

extra

It is possible to create a page without a title, but you run the risk of the page displaying improperly. Furthermore, the lack of a page title leads to blank entries in history, bookmark, and favorites lists, as well as possible exclusion from search engines. Make sure that you insert your title within the Title tags and not simply within the Head tags. If you omit the Title tags, the text you place within the Head tags will display at the top of the Web page itself instead of in the title bar.

Figure 2-1 Inserting a title in an HTML page

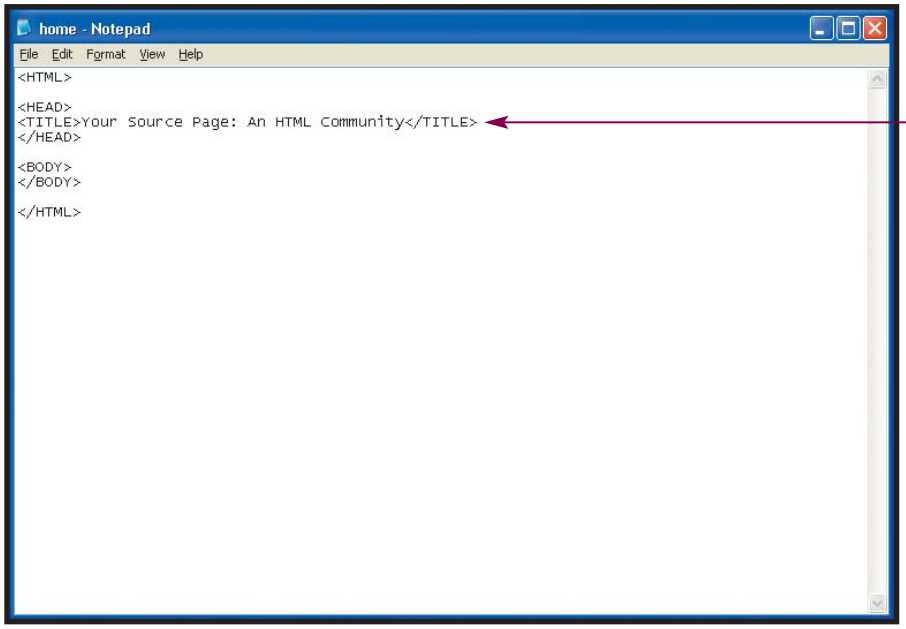
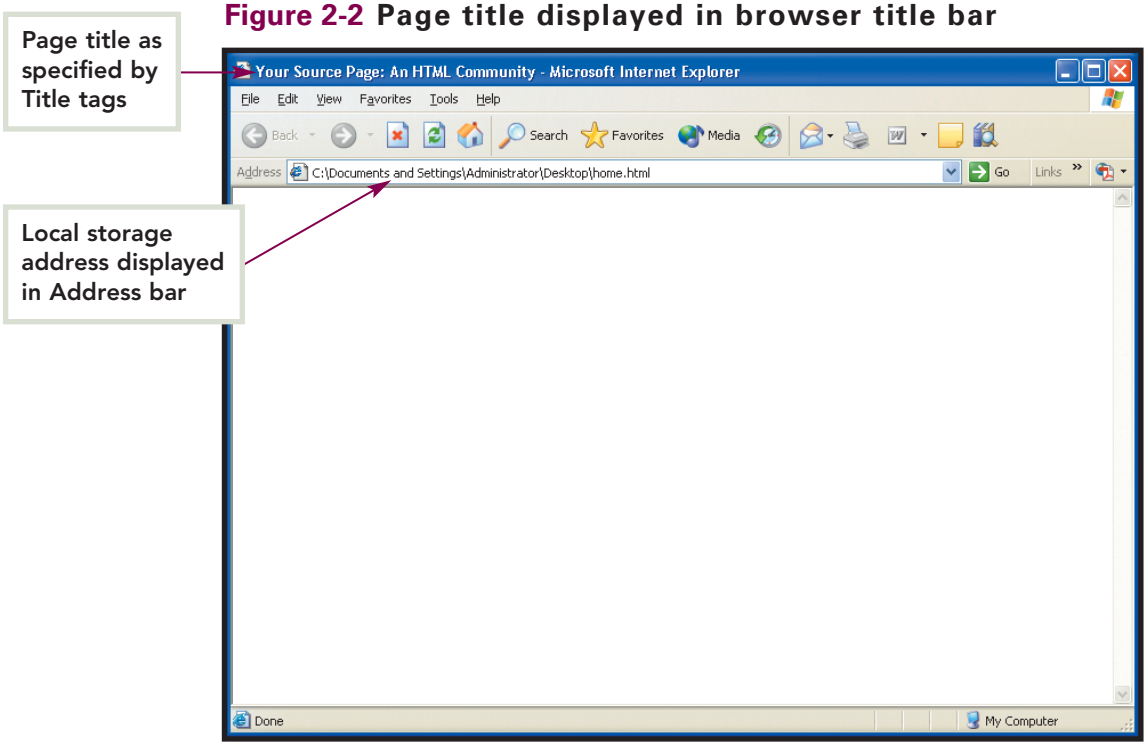


Figure 2-2 Page title displayed in browser title bar



Practice

Create a new HTML document and add a title to the basic structure of the page. The title of the page should be **Traci Goldwin-Smith—Residential Realtor**. Save the file as **title.html**. Then close Notepad and open the title.html file in your default Web browser. Close the Web browser after you have seen that the title appears properly in the title bar of the Web browser.

skill 2 Adding and Formatting Text

overview

Despite all of the bells and whistles that are available, the most important feature of a Web page is often text. Most Web pages are intended to convey information. Therefore, you should begin with clear, concise text that communicates your ideas effectively. However, HTML formatting enables you to extend the capabilities of your text. You can emphasize certain points by using color, different font sizes, and font styles. You can also align text so that it displays in the most appropriate position, such as a caption beneath a photo. Text can even be used to stand in for images when visitors want to view pages without graphics.

how to

Add header and body text to a Web page and format the text.

1. Use **Notepad** to open your **home.html** file.
2. Place the insertion point after the closing **Title** tag and press **[Enter]**.
3. Type **<H1>Your Source Page</H1>**.
4. Place the insertion point after the opening**Body** tag and press **[Enter]**.
5. Type **<I>An online community where HTML programmers of all skill levels can ask questions and exchange ideas about designing Web content with HTML in a supportive environment.</I>**. The document should look like **Figure 2-3**.
6. Click **File** on the Menu bar and then click **Save** to save the changes you have made to the home.html file.
7. Close Notepad.
8. Open home.html in your Web browser. If the page does not look like **Figure 2-4**, review the html file in Notepad to make sure that you entered the tags correctly. If you make corrections, save the file again and then refresh the page in the browser window to view the updated version (click the **Refresh** button in Internet Explorer or the **Reload** button in Netscape or Firefox).
9. Close the Web browser.

tip

If the text in your Notepad window does not wrap to the next line when you reach the edge of the window, click Format on the Menu bar and then click Word Wrap.

extra

The **<H>** tag instructs the browser to display the text that it affects as pre-styled header. **Header** tags enable you to create headers with a single set of tags instead of multiple sets, such as font size and bold. The header tag that you used in this skill, <H1>, is the largest. The next largest header is <H2>, all the way down to <H6>, which is the smallest header. Header tags require closing tags, but do not need attributes or values. However, be aware that different browsers have different default settings for header tags, so an <H3> header may not look the same in Netscape as it does in Internet Explorer.

To change the font size of text, you use the **<FONT SIZE="#">** tag. The Font Size tag has seven values, **1–7**, with **7** being the largest font. You can add a **+** or **–** to make the font size larger or smaller relative to the base font size. The **<BIG>** and **<SMALL>** tags work similarly in relation to the surround text. The Font Size tags also require closing tags.

You used the **<I>** tag above to italicize the enclosed text. **<B>** is a related tag that makes the enclosed text bold. Both tags require closing tags. You can see how it would be more convenient to format text with **<H1>text</H1>** than with **<FONT SIZE="7"><B>text</FONT></B>**.

Figure 2-3 Header and italicized body text in Notepad

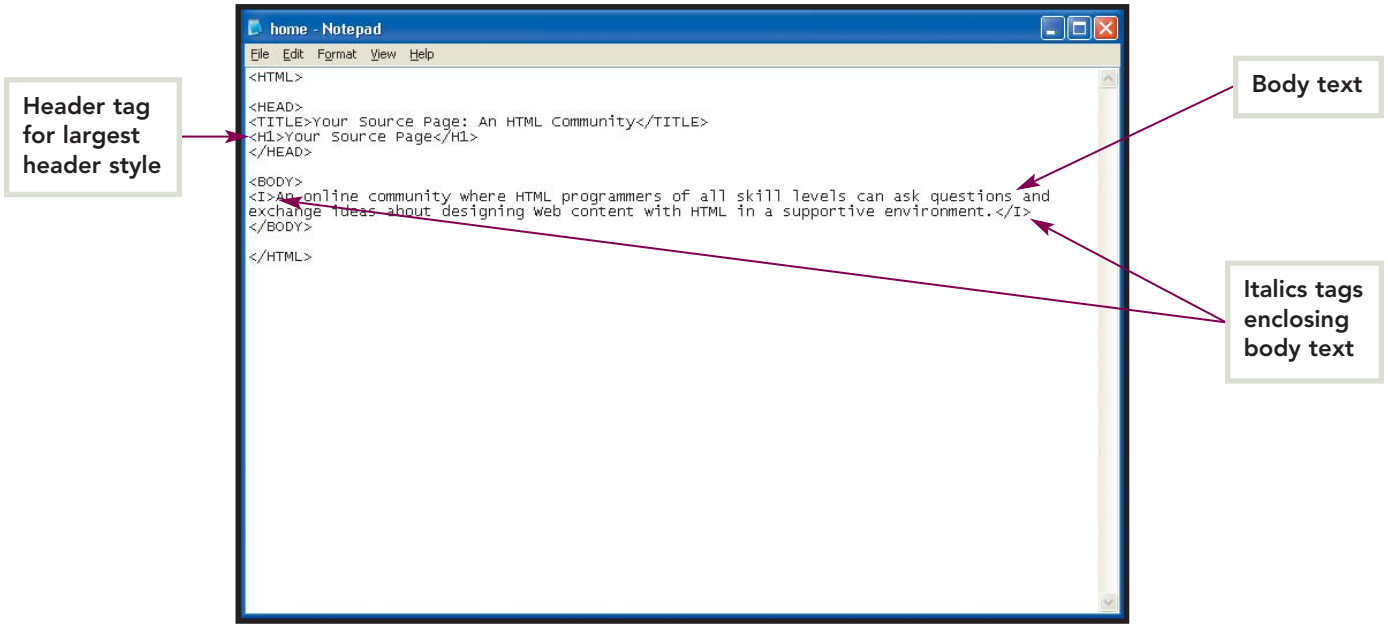
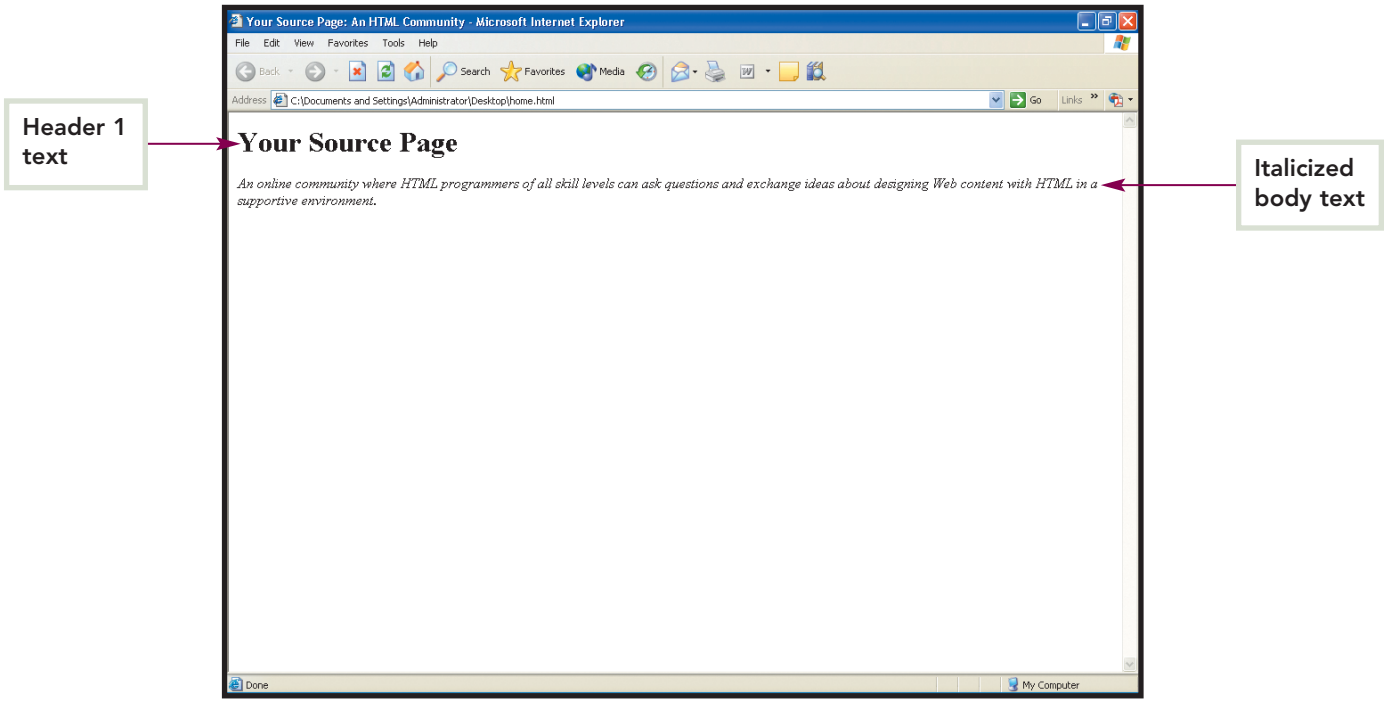


Figure 2-4 Updated home page in Web browser



Practice

Insert a header in the **title.html** file using the text **Traci Goldwin-Smith** in the **Header 2** style. In the **Body** section of the page, insert the text **A personable, knowledgeable, and experienced realtor** in **bold**. Save the changes you have made to the file, close the file, and then view it in your Web browser. Close the browser when you are finished.

skill 3 Working with Preformatted Text

overview

Preformatted text enables you to control how your Web page text appears without concern for the variations in formatting that different browsers introduce. When you enclose text in the preformatted text tags, Web browsers display the text exactly as you have entered it in the text editor. In this case, the spaces and line breaks that you place in your HTML documet do actually carry over to the Web page. Popular uses of preformatted text include basic text tables and graphics that use typed characters, known as ASCII art.

how to

Insert preformatted text in a Web page.

1. Open **home.html** in **Notepad**.
2. Place the insertion point after the closing Italics tag that follows the body text you inserted previously and press **[Enter]** twice.
3. Type **<PRE>Welcome to** and then press **[Enter]**.
4. Press **[Tab]** and then type **Your Source for**. Press **[Enter]**.
5. Press **[Tab]** twice and then type **<B>HTML Discussions</B></PRE>**. Your document should now look like **Figure 2-5**.
6. Click **File** on the Menu bar and then click **Save** to save the changes you have made.
7. Close Notepad.
8. Open **home.html** in your Web browser and verify that it looks like **Figure 2-6**.
9. Close the Web browser.

extra

The major advantage of preformatted text is that the spacing you use in your source document does not change when the page displays in a browser. The same is not always true for tags that you can use to create space on a Web page. As you saw above, you can use other formatting tags with preformatted text. However, it is generally a good idea to verify that your preformatted text displays properly first because the additional formatting tags will take up space in the source document but not in the Web page. If you add tags before achieving the correct spacing, you may alter the page layout.

Figure 2-5 Inserting preformatted text

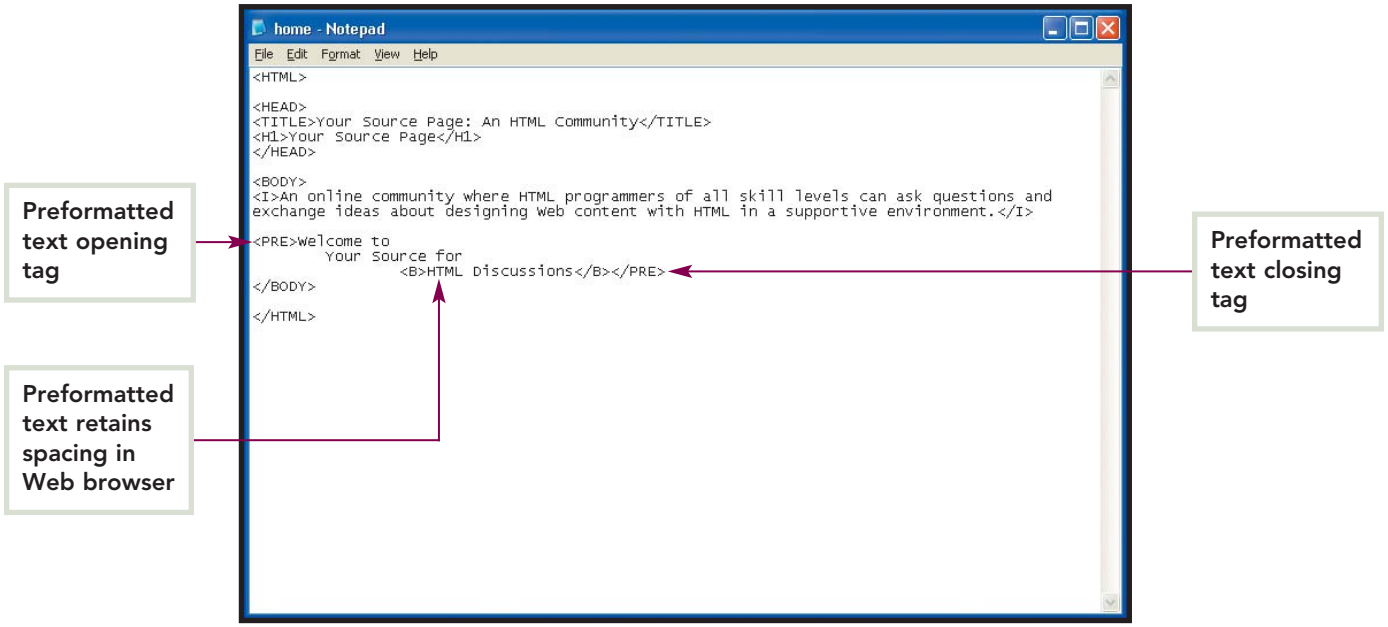
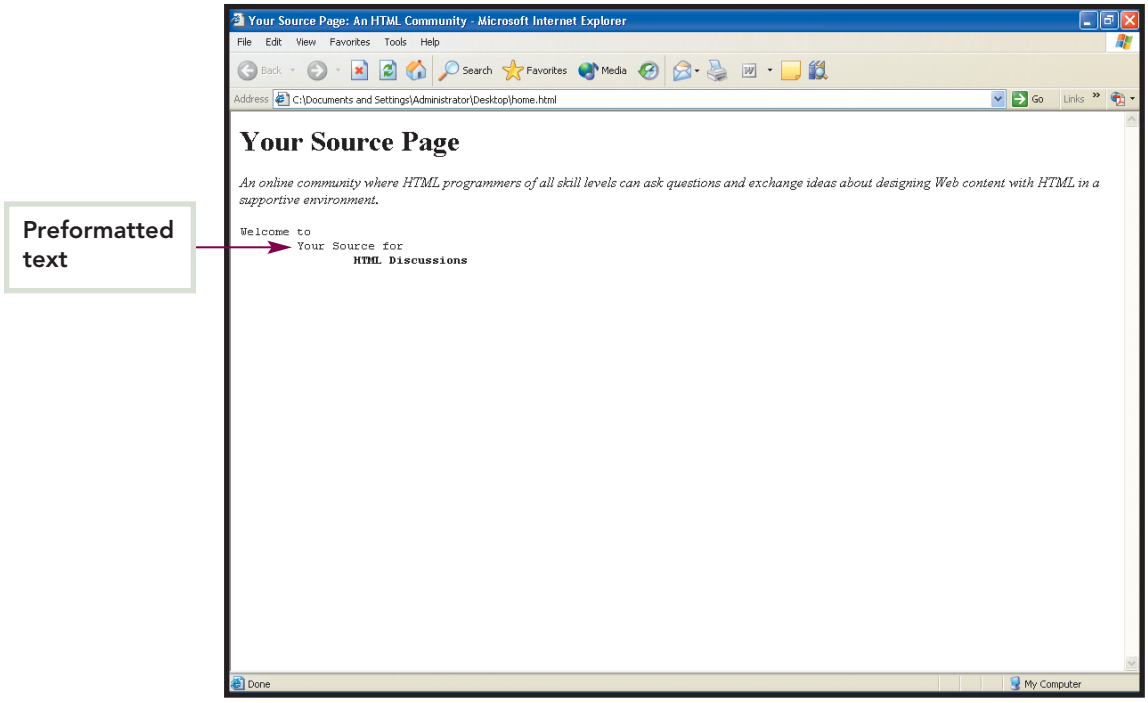


Figure 2-6 Preformatted text displayed in Web browser



Practice

Add **preformatted text** to the **Body** section of the **title.html** file. Add four lines of text as follows, pressing **[Enter]** after each line: **Low commissions**, **Flexible hours**, **E-mail updates**, and **Quality listings**. Save the changes you have made to the file, close the file, and then view it in your Web browser. Close the browser when you have finished.

skill 4 Using Paragraphs and Line Breaks

overview

Tags that you can use to create space and line breaks in HTML include **<P>** and **
**. The <P> tag starts a new paragraph that includes a blank line before the new paragraph begins. The
 tag enables you to insert a line break that does not include a blank line. Both of these tags align the text that follows them on the left side of the page by default. With these tags, you can easily manipulate the spacing of all items in your Web page.

how to

Use paragraph and line break tags in a Web page.

1. Open **home.html** in **Notepad**.
2. Place the insertion point after the closing preformatted text tag and press **[Enter]** twice.
3. Type **<P>"Whenever I have a question about editing the HTML generated by my blogging software, a friendly user from Your Source Page is always happy to help."</P>**.
4. Press **[Enter]** and type **Bill Fischer
**.
5. Type **Amateur Blogger**. Your document should look like **Figure 2-7**.
6. Click **File** on the Menu bar and then click **Save**.
7. Close Notepad.
8. Open **home.html** in your Web browser and compare it to **Figure 2-8**.
9. Close the Web browser.

extra

Header tags include paragraph markers and therefore do not require paragraph tags to set them apart from the surrounding text with space. The closing **Paragraph** tag, **</P>**, is not necessary most of the time because the opening tag is what creates the new paragraph. If you need to start a second new paragraph, you simply use the **<P>** tag again to create the next new paragraph. However, if you are using a more advanced HTML technique called Cascading Style Sheets, the closing Paragraph tag enables you to confine the application of a style to a particular paragraph. The **Line Break** tag, **
**, does not require a closing tag.

Figure 2-7 Paragraph and Line Break tags

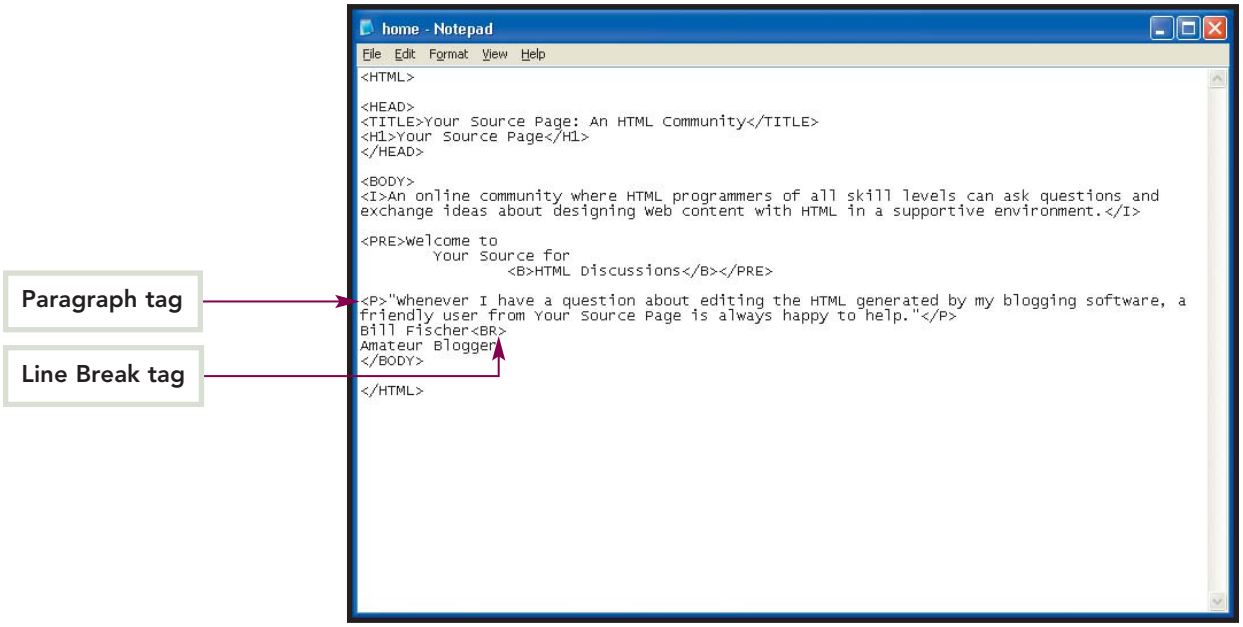
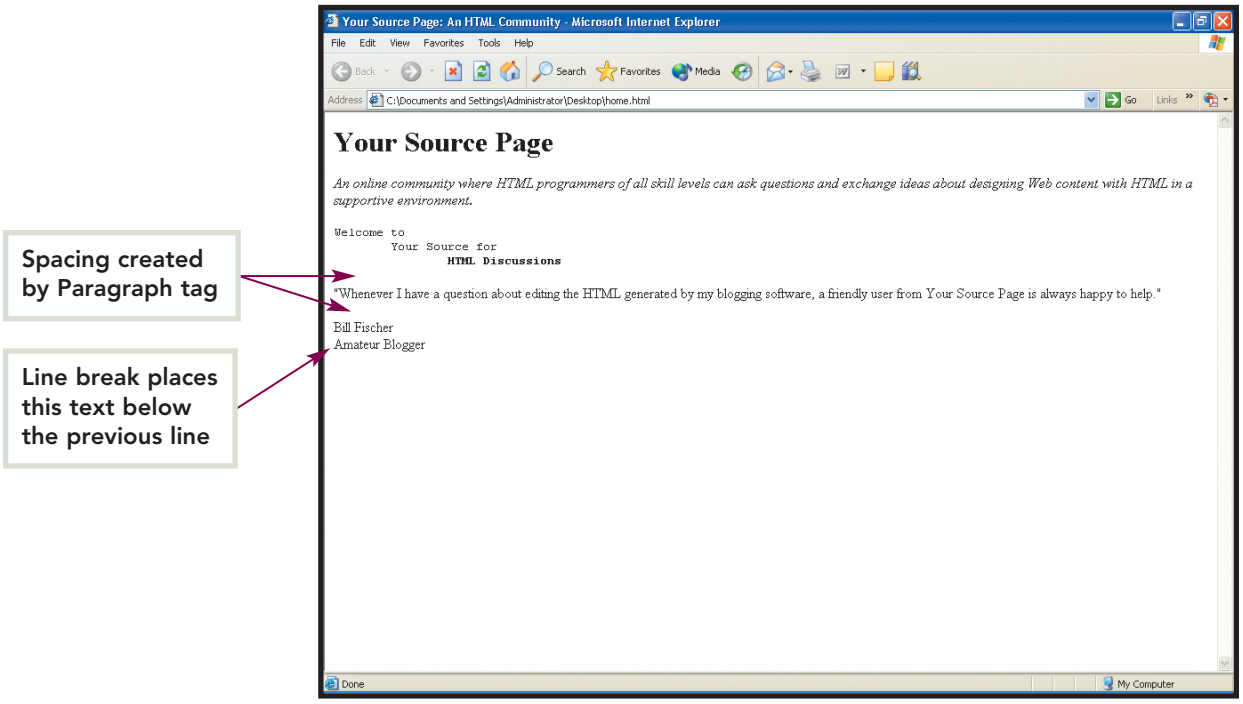


Figure 2-8 Spacing from Paragraph and Line Break tags



Practice

Add a new paragraph to the title.html file. The paragraph sh ould be a list containing the following items: **Since 1995**, **Top 5 in Sales in County**, **Call 1-800-555-5555 Today!** Separate the items in the list with line breaks. Save the changes you have made and close the file.

skill 5 Creating Lists

overview

You have already learned how to create lists using preformatted text and line breaks. However, HTML includes tags specifcally intended for constructing different types of lists. These tags give you more precise control over how your lists appear on a Web page. An **ordered**, or numbered, list is used for sequential steps or pieces of information that are ranked by priority. An **unordered**, or bulleted, list groups together related items that do not require a sequence. A **definition** list is used for items that are followed by a description or definition, such as a glossary. Lists are a very effective way to organize the content of your page.

how to

Create a list in an HTML document.

1. Use **Notepad** to open the file named **hthowto2-5.txt** from your **HTML Student Data Files** folder.
2. Place the insertion point on the first blank line below the opening **Head** tag.
3. Add a title to the page by typing **<TITLE>Features of the Your Source Page HTML Community</TITLE>**.
4. Press **[Enter]** twice and then type **<H3>Features of the Your Source Page HTML Community</H3>**.
5. Place the insertion point on the first blank line below the opening **Body** tag.
6. Type **<UL>**, which is the Unordered List tag, and press **[Enter]**.
7. Type **<LI>Secure, moderated forums</LI>** and press **[Enter]**. <LI> is the **List Item** tag.
8. Type the remaining list items, pressing **[Enter]** after each item: **<LI>Articles by Experts</LI>**, **<LI>Member Profiles</LI>**, **<LI>Code Gallery</LI>**, **<LI>Online Tutorials</LI>**.
9. Type **</UL>** to end the unordered list.
10. Save the file as **features.html**. The document should like **Figure 2-9**.
11. Close Notepad and then open **features.html** in your Web browser **(Figure 2-10)**.
12. Close the Web browser.

extra

Ordered lists and definition lists are constructed similarly to unordered lists with a set of tags to introduce and end the list enclosing list items, each of which also has an opening and closing tag. The opening tag for an ordered list is **<OL>**. List items in an ordered list use the same **<LI>** tag that list items in an unordered list use. The opening tag for a definition list **<DL>**. In a definition list, use the **Definition Term** tag, **<DT>**, for list items and the **<DD>** tag for each associated definition or description. Definition terms are not marked by numbers or bullets, but their definitions are indented.

You can create a list within another list, also known as a **nested list**, by placing the opening tag for a new list after the closing tag of a list item in the first list. Make sure you close the nested list before you go on to the next list item in the first list.

Figure 2-9 An unordered list in the source document

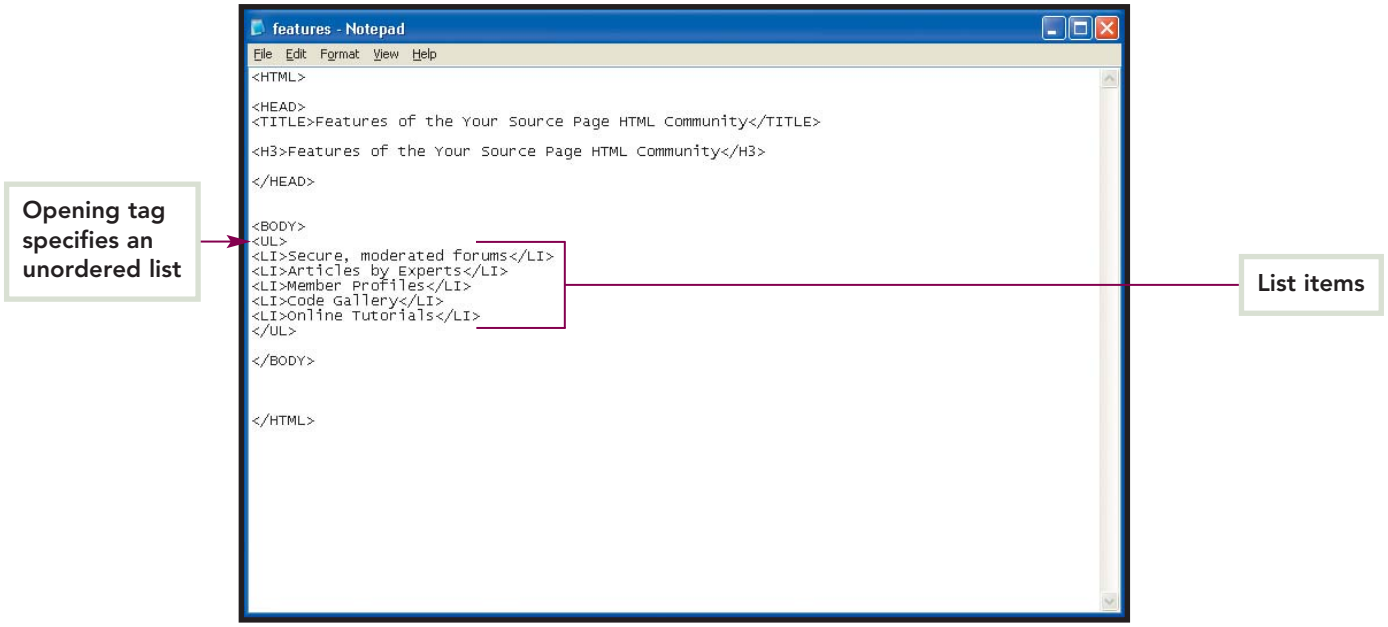
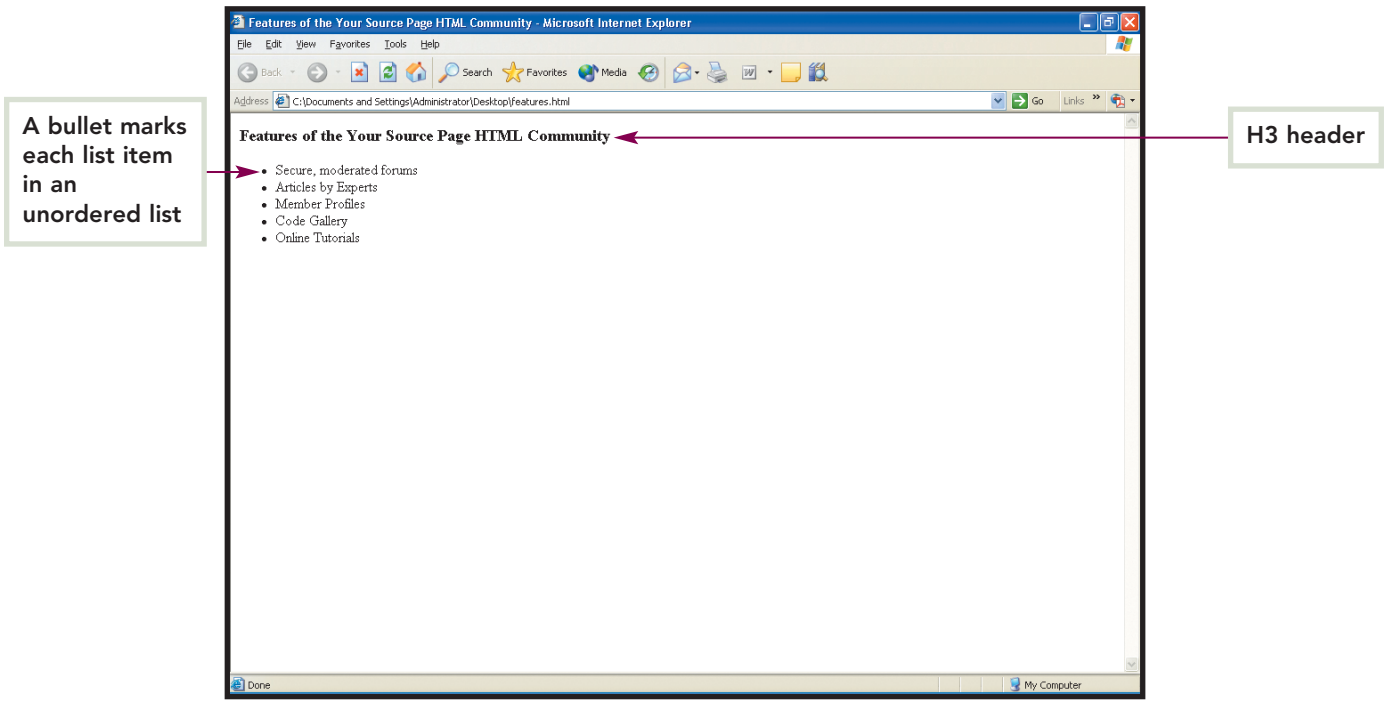


Figure 2-10 An unordered list on a Web page



Practice

Create a new HTML document and save it as **list.html**. Add a numbered list to the document that states the top five concerns of a potential house buyer. Save and close the file when you have finished.

skill 6 Adding and Formatting Tables

overview

Many Web designers use tables to organize the content of their Web pages. When used correctly, tables can improve the structure of a Web page and make it more attractive. A **table** consists of **rows** and **columns**. The point at which a column intersects with a row is called a **cell**. Designing a table in HTML is a multiple-step process that uses several tags. However, learning how to create tables in this manner is worthwhile because it enables you to control and format elements of the table such as labels, cell borders, cell spacing, row height, and column width. Tables made with preformatted text do not offer such precision.

how to

Create a table using HTML tags.

1. Open the **features.html** file in **Notepad**.
2. Place the insertion point on the blank line below the closing **Unordered List** tag and press **[Enter]**.
3. Type **<TABLE>** and press **[Enter]**. Type **<TR>**, the **Table Row** tag, which creates the first row of the table. Every instance of table data that you enter before using the **</TR>** closing tag will appear in this row. Press **[Enter]**.
4. The first row of the table will contain table headers. Type **<TH>**, the **Table Header** tag. Then type **Membership Features</TH>** to create the first header cell. Press **[Enter]**.
5. Create the remaining header cells in the first row: Type **<TH>Guest</TH>** and press **[Enter]**. Type **<TH>Registered User</TH>** and press **[Enter]**. Type **<TH>Premium User</TH></TR>** and press **[Enter]** twice. You have completed the first row.
6. Type **<TR>** to start the second row and press **[Enter]**. In this row and in those that follow, the first cell will be a header cell and the remaining cells will contain simple table data.
7. Type **<TH>Fees</TH>** to create the header cell in the second row and press **[Enter]**. Type **<TD>No fee</TD>** to create the first cell of table data in the second row and press **[Enter]**. Type **<TD>No fee</TD>** and press **[Enter]**. Type **<TD>21.95/yr</TD></TR>** to complete the row and press **[Enter]** twice.
8. Add a third row to the table consisting of a table header and three cells of table data. Type **<TR>** and press **[Enter]**. Type **<TH>Forum Usage</TH>** and press **[Enter]**. Type **<TD>Read</TD>** and press **[Enter]**. Type **<TD>Read and Post</TD>** and press **[Enter]**. Type **<TD>Read, Post, and Archives</TD></TR>** and press **[Enter]**. Type **</TABLE>** to end the table.
9. Place the insertion point after the word **TABLE** in the opening **Table** tag. Type a **space** and then type **BORDER="2"** to format the table with a border. Your document should look like **Figure 2-11**.
10. Click **File** and then click **Save** to save the changes you have made.
11. Close Notepad.
12. Open **features.html** in your Web browser and compare it to **Figure 2-12**.
13. Close the Web browser.

tip

Pressing [Enter] after these tags has no effect on your page design. It is used only to keep the page source document neat and easy to read.

tip

The value for the BORDER attribute is measured in pixels. Use a higher number to create a thicker border.

Figure 2-11 Using HTML tags to create a table

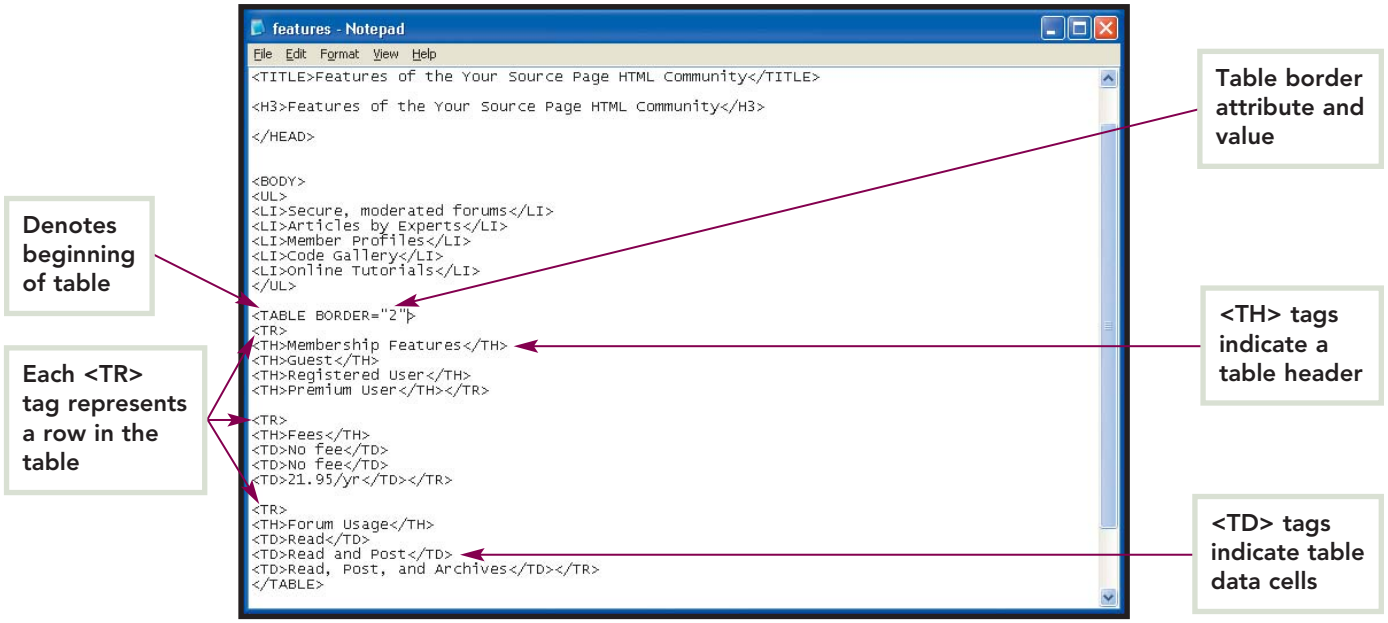
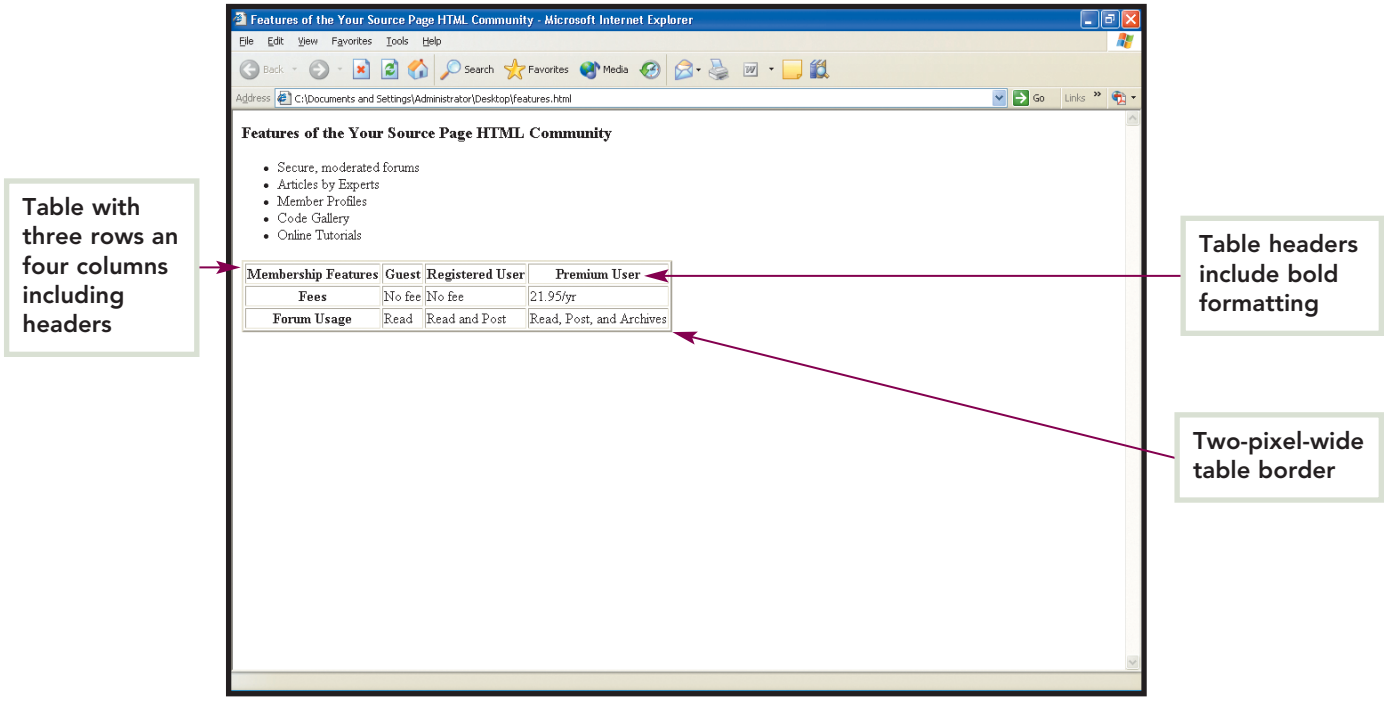


Figure 2-12 An HTML table displayed on a Web page



Practice

Open the **features.html** document that you worked on in the **how to** portion of this skill. Add three more rows to the table (Rows 4–6) as follows: Row 4: **Articles**, **Read**, **Read**, **Read and Download**; Row 5: **Personal Profile Page**, **None**, **Simple Profile**, **Deluxe Profile**; Row 6: **Tutorial Access**, **None**, **1 Use/Tutorial/Month**, **Unlimited**. The first cell in each row should be a table header and the remaining cells will be simple table data. Save and close the file when you finish.

skill 7 Understanding Anchors

overview

You are probably accustomed to the concept of a link on a Web page connecting to another Web page or file on the Internet. You may also know that you can create a link on a Web page that connects to another place on the same page or to a specific place on another Web page. To create such a link, you first need to insert an **anchor**, which marks the location that a Web browser will navigate to when the user clicks the link. When you construct the link, you reference the anchor. Long Web pages that require a lot of scrolling to read are good candidates for anchors. You use the **<A>** tag and the **Name attribute** to create an anchor.

how to

Create an anchor and a link that connects to the anchor on a Web page.

1. Use **Notepad** to open the file **hthowto2-7.txt** from your **HTML Student Data Files** folder.
2. Scroll down until you see a list of names and place the insertion point in front of the first name, **Button Gwinnett**.
3. Type **<A NAME=SIGNERS>** to create an anchor using the **Name** attritube and a value that is the name of the anchor.
4. Place the insertion point after the name **Button Gwinnett** and type **</A>**. The first name on the list is now an anchor. Your document should look like **Figure 2-13**.
5. Scroll back up to the top of the document and place the insertion point on the blank line between the **Head** tags.
6. Type **<A HREF=#SIGNERS>View the Signers</A>** **(Figure 2-14)**.
7. Click **File** on the Menu bar and then click **Save As** to open the **Save As** dialog box. Save the file as **declaration.html**.
8. Close Notepad.
9. Open **declaration.html** in your Web browser. The words **View the Signers** at the top of the page should be underlined, indicating that they are a link. When you move the mouse pointer over the link, the arrow will change to the Link Select pointer  .
10. Click **View the Signers**. The page will jump down to the anchor you inserted at the beginning of the list of names **(Figure 2-15)**.
11. Close the Web browser.

tip

Some browsers consider the terms target and anchor to be interchangeable. However, an anchor on a page is different from the target of a hyperlink.

extra

The **<A>** tag represents a link. The **HREF** attribute tells the browser that the link is a **Hypertext Reference**. When you create a link to an anchor on another page, you must include the name of that page in the link. For example, to link to an anchor on a page named **home.html**, you would type **<A HREF="home.html#*anchor_name*">**. As in step 3 above, you should not use quotes around a NAME or HREF if the value is a single word.

Figure 2-13 Inserting an anchor

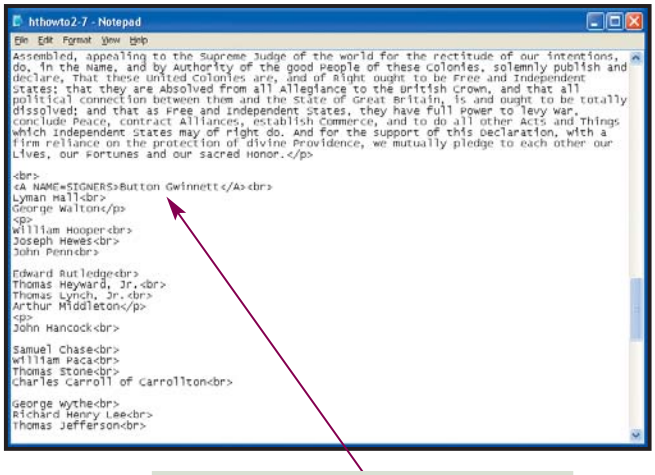


Figure 2-14 Inserting an anchor

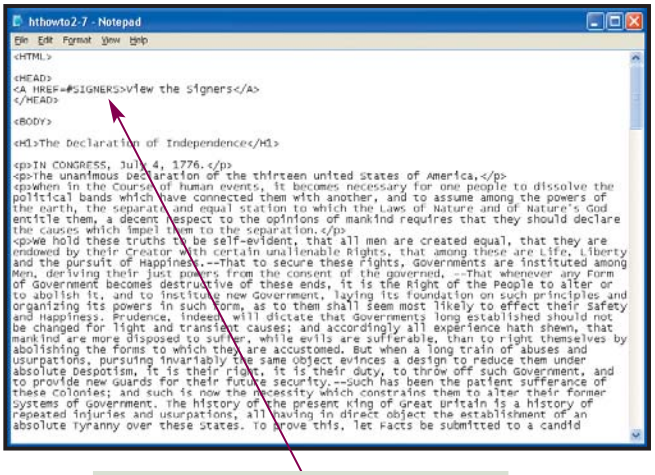
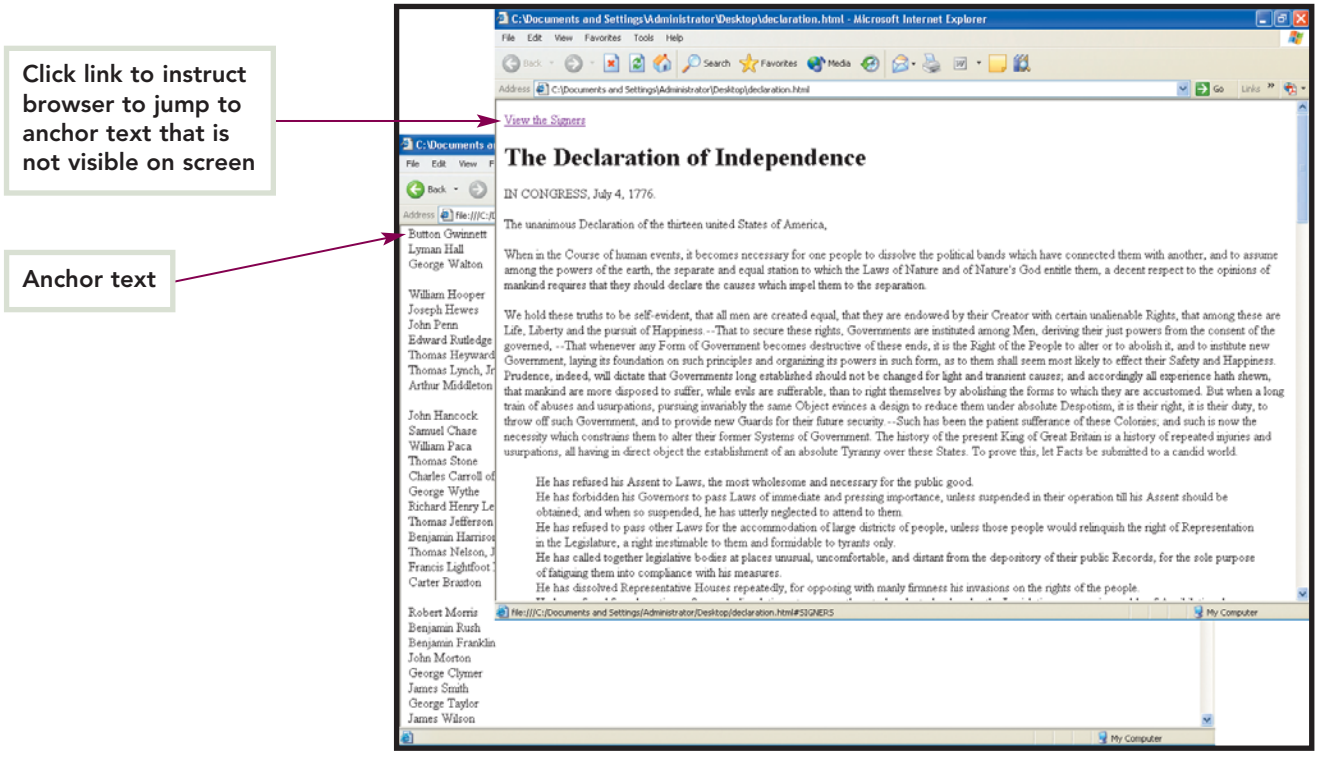


Figure 2-15 Following a link to an anchor



Practice

Open the **list.html** file that you created earlier in this lesson in **Notepad**. Create an anchor at the last list item, and then insert a link to the anchor at the top of the page. Save the file and close Notepad. Open the file in your Web browser and test the link to make sure that it connects to the anchor.

skill 8 Creating Hyperlinks

overview

The World Wide Web would not be nearly so user-friendly if not for hyperlinks. A **hyperlink** can be text or an image that enables you to go from one Web page to another with a single mouse click. The destination page may be part of the same Web site or a different Web site. The destination page could even be stored on a Web server halfway around the world. Hyperlinks also enable you to download files that are not Web pages, such as audio, video, spreadsheets, or word processing documents. A hyperlink to a Web page places you at the top of that page, as opposed to an anchor, which can connect you to any portion of the page.

how to

Insert a hyperlink in the home.html page that connects to the features.html page.

1. Use **Notepad** to open the **home.html** file.
2. Place the insertion point after the word **Blogger** near the bottom of the **Body** section and press **[Enter]** twice.
3. Type **<P><A HREF="features.html">Features of the Your Source Page HTML Community</A></P>**. The <A> tag links the specified text to the features.html page.
4. Click **File** on the Menu bar and click **Save**. Your document should look like **Figure 2-16**.
5. Close Notepad.
6. Open **home.html** in your Web browser **(Figure 2-17)**.
7. Place the mouse pointer over the hyperlink you created so that the pointer changes to  .
8. Click the hyperlink. Assuming that your pages are stored in the same directory, the **features.html** page will open in the browser window.
9. Close the Web browser.

tip

Hyperlinks can also be used to open an e-mail composition window with the recipient's address entered.

tip

You should always test your links in a browser after you create them in HTML.

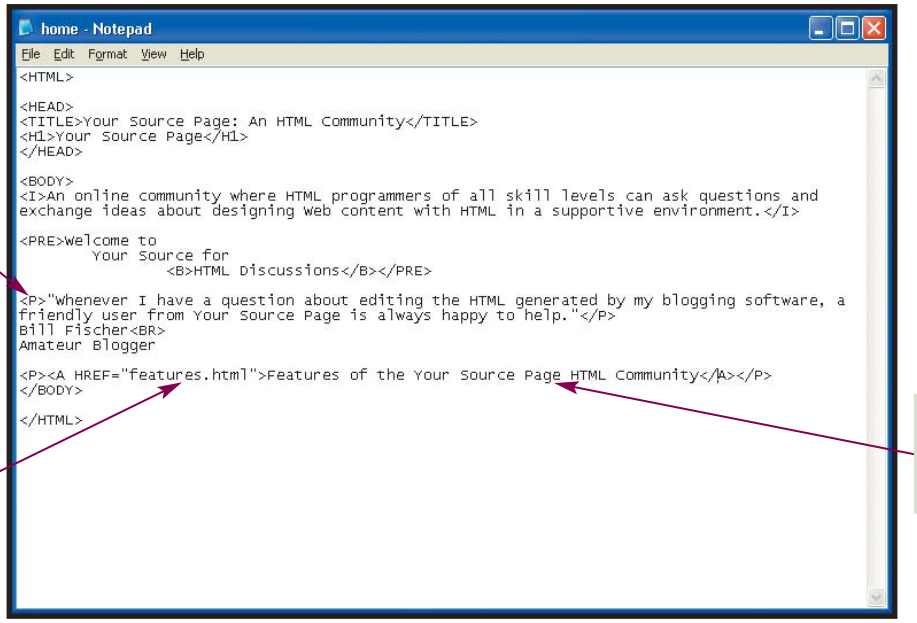
extra

When you create a hyperlink to a page within the same Web site, the value of hyperlink is the name of the destination file (e.g., features.html). This is called a **relative pathname**, and it works because the two files being linked are stored in the same folder. However, when you create a hyperlink that connects to a page on another Web site, you must use the full URL of the page as the value for the hyperlink. This is called an **absolute pathname**. If you wanted to create a hyperlink to the the home page of the Recreation.gov site, you would use the following tag: **<A HREF="http://www.recreation.gov">Recreation.gov</A>**. You construct the link's value exactly as you would if you were entering it in the Address bar of your Web browser. The text that is linked, in this case "Recreation.gov," can be anything you want it to be, but it should be indicative of the link's destination. You can also create links to files that do not reside on servers using Hypertext Transfer Protocol. For example, you can replace **http** in the value with **ftp** if the file to which you are linking resides on a File Transfer Protocol server.

Figure 2-16 A hyperlink in HTML

The paragraph tag is not required for a hyperlink but is used here electively

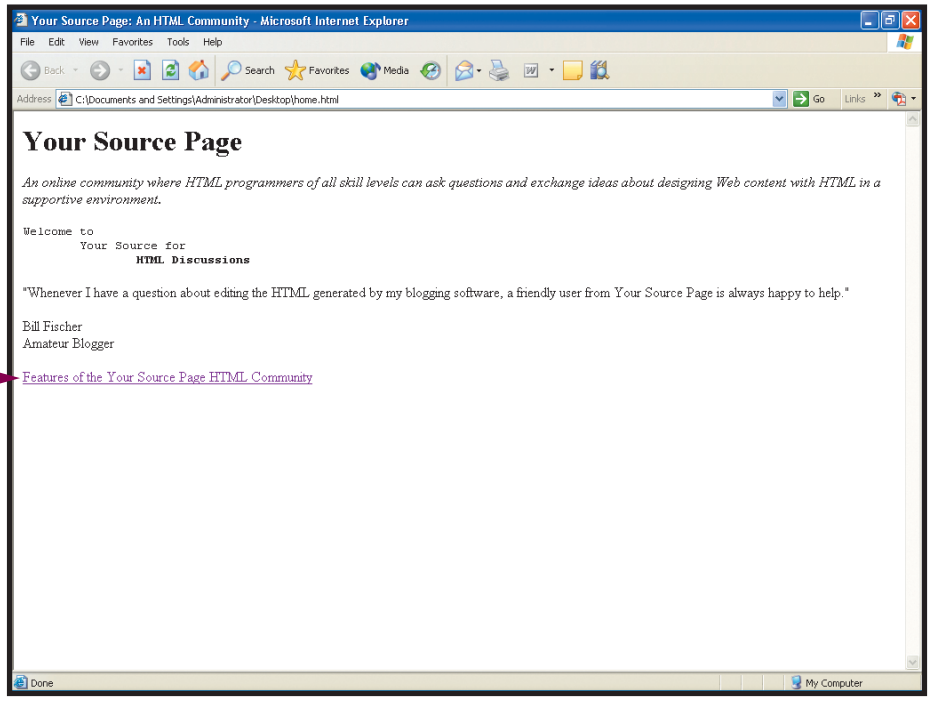
A hyperlink to a file on the same Web site requires only the file name



Text that appears on the Web page as a hyperlink

Figure 2-17 A hyperlink on a Web page

Connects to the Features page



Practice

Open the **title.html** file in **Notepad**. Create a hyperlink at the bottom of the page to the **list.html** page. Use text for the hyperlink that is appropriate for the content of the list.html page. When you finish, save the changes you have made to title.html, close the file, and test the hyperlink in your Web browser.

skill 9 Adding Colors to a Web Page

overview

If you have any experience at all surfing the Web, you know that Web pages are not simply black text on a white background. HTML provides tags for incorporating colors, both bold and subtle, into your Web pages. You can apply color to the background of a page, as well as to the text, hyperlinks, and tables. You can use a default color scheme for an entire page or select different colors for the individual elements of your page. Choose your colors carefully because some colors are difficult to look at on a screen, and some colors clash when used together.

how to

Apply a background color and change the color of the text on a Web page.

1. Use **Notepad** to open **features.html**.
2. Place the insertion point between **BODY** and the closing angle bracket, **>**, in the **<BODY>** tag. Press **[Space bar]** to create a space after **BODY**.
3. Type **BGCOLOR="#FFFACD"**, which is the background color attribute and an accompanying value. The value is a **Hexadecimal** code for a color, in this case a shade of yellow.
4. Press **[Space bar]** to insert a space after the background color value.
5. Type **TEXT="#000080"**. Here, the value is a hexadecimal code that applies the color navy blue to the body text. Your document should like **Figure 2-18**.
6. Click **File** on the Menu bar and click **Save** to save the changes you have made.
7. Close Notepad.
8. Open **features.html** in your Web browser (**Figure 2-19**). Verify that the background and text colors have changed.
9. Close the Web browser.

extra

In the above exercise, you changed the background and text colors for the entire Body section of a Web page. In some cases, you may want to change the text color of a specific object, such as a list, table, or passage. Instead of the **Text** tag, use the **Font** tag with the **Color** attribute and a Hexadecimal value. For example, precede the text to which you want to add color with **<FONT COLOR="#######">**, type the text, and then close the tag with **</FONT>**.

HTML has 16 predefined colors that do not require the use of a Hexadecimal value. The value for these colors is simply the name of the color. For example, to set the default body text color to blue, type **<BODY TEXT="BLUE">**.

The **Hexadecimal** system is a complex method of creating colors. It is based on the combinations of **red**, **blue**, and **green** that form specific colors. The 16 symbols **0–9** and **A–F** dictate the red, green, and blue components of **255** colors using a base **16** format. Specify the value by typing **#** followed by a Hexadecimal combination of six letters and numbers. The codes for lighter colors generally include more letters and often begin with the letter **F**. The code **#FFFFFF** represents **white**. The codes for darker numbers generally use more numbers. For example, **#000000** represents **black**. Black and white are among the 16 predefined colors, so you most likely would not need to use their Hexadecimal numbers. The appendices at the end of this book include tables for the 16 predefined colors and their attribute names as well as the Hexadecimal codes for many common colors.

Figure 2-18 Adding background and text colors

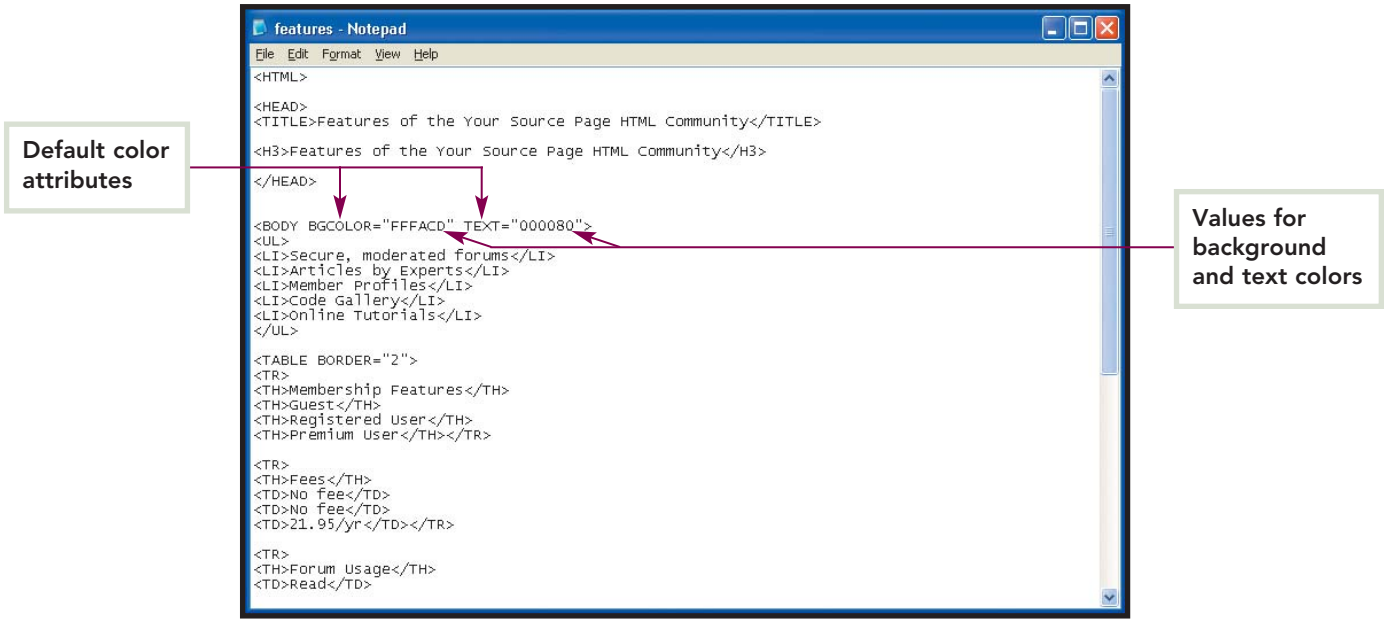
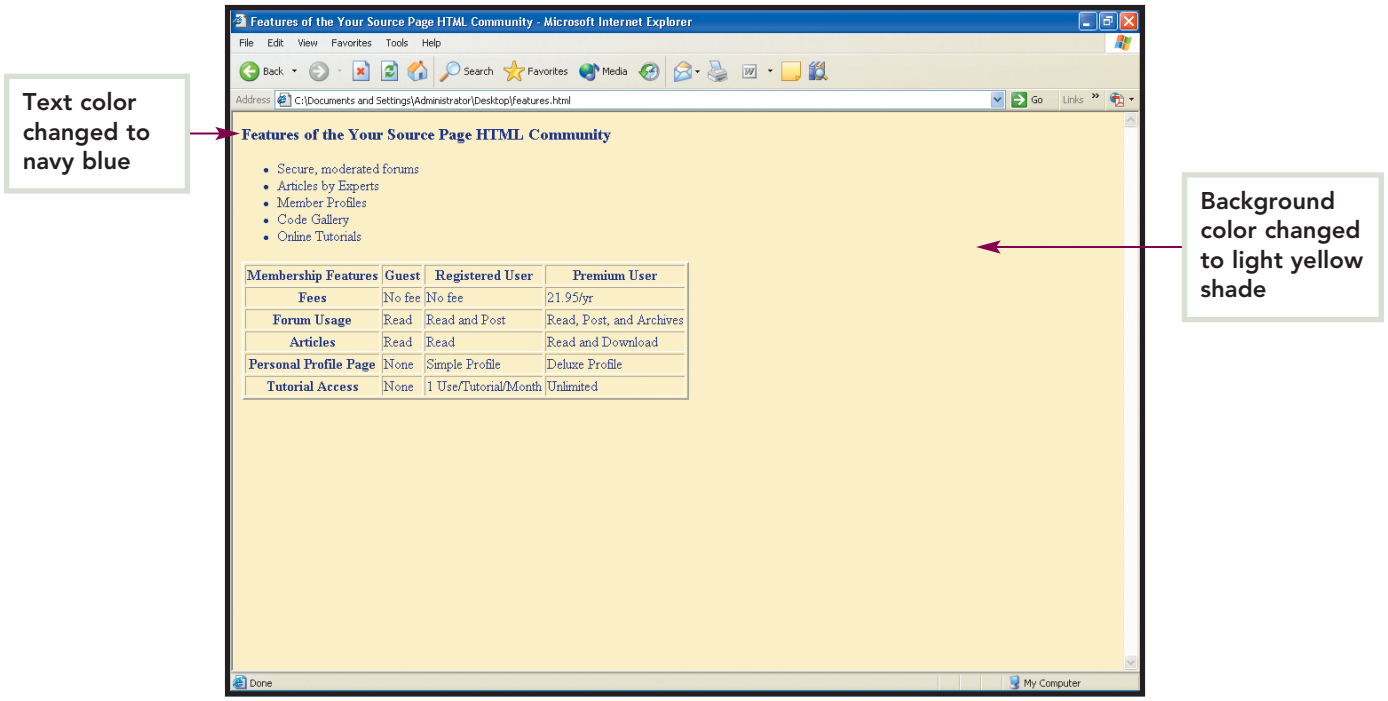


Figure 2-19 Web page formatted with color



Practice

Open the **list.html** file in **Notepad**. Change the background color of the list.html file to **navy blue** and the default text color to **white**. Save the file and close Notepad. Open list.html in your Web browser to view the color changes you made.

shortcuts

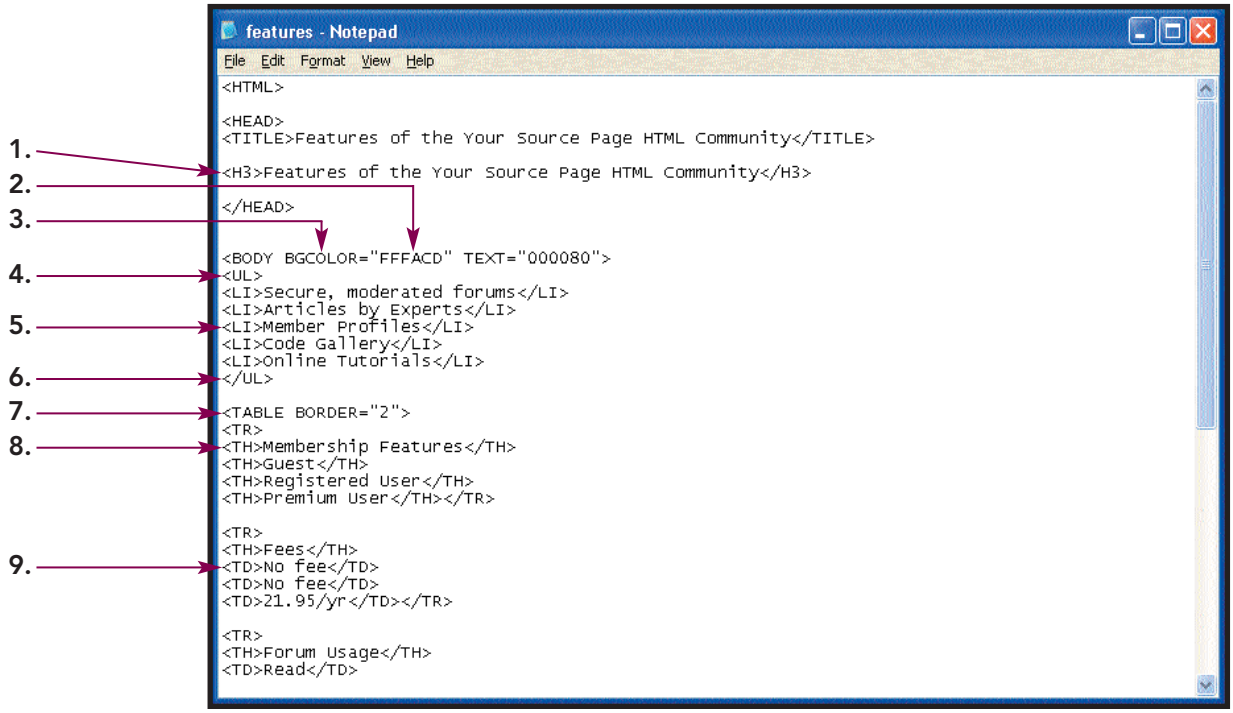
HTML Tag	Appearance in Browser
<H1>	Heading 1
<H2>	Heading 2
<H3>	Heading 3
<H4>	Heading 4
<H5>	Heading 5
<H6>	Heading 6

quiz

A. Identify Key Features

Name the items indicated by callouts in Figure 2-20.

Figure 2-20 HTML source document with formatting elements



B. Select the Best Answer

10. Page element that appears in search engine results and favorites lists	a.
11. Text that doesn't vary in appearance from the source page to the Web page	b. <DD>
12. HTML tag that creates a line break	c. <TD>
13. HTML tag that signals a term definition	d. Anchor
14. HTML tag that marks a table item	e. Hexadecimal
15. System used to create colors on a Web page	f. Preformatted
16. Marks a specific location on a page to which a link points	g. Target
17. The destination of a hyperlink	h. Title

quiz (continued)

C. Complete the Statement

18. Between which tags should you place the Title tags?
    a. <BODY></BODY>
    b. <P></P>
    c. <HEAD></HEAD>
    d. <TABLE></TABLE>

19. Paragraph tags are not required within Header tags because:
    a. Header tags include new paragraphs
    b. Text in Header tags appears exactly as it is in the HTML document
    c. All Web browsers interpret and display HTML identically
    d. Headers and paragraphs are equivalent

20. If you want to create paragraphs that do not add vertical space to your document, use the:
    a. Paragraph tag
    b. Header tag
    c. Ordered list tag
    d. Line break tag

21. A numbered list is also called a:
    a. Bulleted list
    b. Ordered list
    c. Definition list
    d. Preformatted list

22. Which command would you use to add color to a section of text on a Web page?
    a. <Text="#######">
    b. <TXTCOLOR="#######">
    c. <FONT COLOR="#######">
    d. <WORD COLOR="#######>

23. Which of the following should you do to format the body of a Web page with color?
    a. Specify the name of the color and whether you want a dark or light shade
    b. Type the Hexadecimal code for the exact color you want to use
    c. Type the name of one of the 64 predefined colors
    d. Type the <COLOR> tag

24. Which of the following tags should you use to create a header cell in a table?
    a. <TR>
    b. <TD>
    c. <HT>
    d. <TH>

25. The border of a table is measured in:
    a. Pixels
    b. Fractions of an inch
    c. Millimeters
    d. Points

interactivity

Build Your Skills

1. Insert a page title and text in a Web page:

a. Use **Notepad** to open **Web Page.html**, the document you created on page **HT 1.23**.

b.