

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [Ultimate Intro to HTML \[elements, attributes, links and more\]](#)

clark.dll - April 21, 2014, 9:49 pm

Introduction:

Hello everyone. This tutorial will be covering the basics of HTML and any questions you may have about HTML. This is just an INTRO to html, and it does not cover everything. If you're new to HTML or you're unsure of some basics I highly recommend taking a look through this guide! Thanks for reading, and if you have any suggestions/corrections please PM me.

What is HTML?

HTML stands for Hyper Text Markup Language. HTML describes the structure of a webpage. This language is used to add colour, font, hyperlinks, and graphics on World Wide Web pages.

What is HTML used for?

HTML is used to create and structure websites. It's a worldwide standard to use HTML or xHTML for web page design. HTML will continue to form the basis of virtually all websites for a very long time, so you can see why it's a good idea to learn this language. It's also good to note that HTML is not a "programming" language because it does not compile anything. HTML does not have common conditional statements such as If/Else, nor can it evaluate expressions or do math. If you call HTML a programming language in front of developers you'll probably receive a beat down. Don't let this discourage you though, HTML is essential if you want to get into web design/web development.

Where do I start?

Before we begin coding, we must first find a text editor to code the webpages in. Odds are most of you already have a sufficient text editor on your computer. You can use Notepad if you're on PC or TextEdit if you're on Mac, but why settle for the default editors? The truth is there are TONS of editors you can use that will make web designing much easier for you. For this particular tutorial I am going to recommend the code editor Brackets for a few reasons. One, it works with Linux, OS, and Windows. Two, it's very user friendly/visually appealing. Three, it's free, and four it supports live editing which we will learn more about later on.

Download Brackets [Here](#). To open your code in a browser click [this](#) icon in the top right corner of Brackets *With Brackets we can edit our code live meaning whatever changes we make to our HTML document, will be instantly made on your browser!

HTML Elements/Tags and Their Purposes.

When you look at the code below you will see a series of tags. Tags just give you information about the content that is between them. If you look between the <body></body> tags you will find an element. An HTML element is everything from the start tag to the end tag. Most elements have an opening and closing tag, however some do not. Lets take a closer looks at the tags below, and their purposes.

Ex:

```
Code <!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
```

```
<head>
```

```
</head>
```

```
<body>
```

```
<p>I am a website</p>
```

```
</body>
```

```
</html>
```

This is what the script outputs:

Spoiler ([Click to View](#))

*Notice how the only thing visible to us is the `<p>` element? That's because it's located between the `<body></body>` tags.

Lets break down the following elements, shall we?

`<html></html>` ----- These tags indicate that any content between them is HTML code.

`<head></head>` -----Container of all of the head elements.

`<body></body>` ----- These tags indicate that anything between them is shown inside the main browser.

`<p></p>` ----- Indicates anything between these tags is a paragraph.

There are several tags which we will continue to learn more about as we progress through this guide.

What's an Attribute?

Since we just covered elements, I think it's a good idea to tell you guys a little bit about Attributes and what they're used for. Attributes essentially just provide additional information about the contents of the elements. They will appear in the opening tag and they are made up of two parts: A name, and a Value. They are also separated by an equal sign.

What? You'd like some examples? Sure.

Code `<a href="helpdoc.html">Click here to read the HF Helpdocs.</a>`

`<p lang="en-us">Paragraph is in English</p>`

Do you see how that works? In the last example, the name was "lang" and the value was "en-us" telling us the paragraph was in US-English. Similar to tags, there are tons of attributes you have at your disposal which we will encounter as we proceed.

`<title>` Tag:

Whatever is written between the `<title></title>` tags will show up in your browsers tab.

For example:

Code `<!DOCTYPE html>`

```
<html>
```

```
<head>
```

```
<title>Clarks HTML/CSS Guide</title>
```

```
</head>
```

```
<body>
```

```
<p>I love HTML.</p>
```

</body>
</html>

Will display:

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Cool huh? I shouldn't have to explain to you why that's a good thing to know!

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Lets Talk More Tags:

Do you remember when I said we would learn more tags later on? Well here we go! I'm going to list off some tags along with their purposes, just so you can gain some exposure.

<h1><h1> - These tags stand for Headings. This tag should be used for headings, obviously. There are 6 headings: <h1> <h2> <h3> <h4> h5> and <h6>. <h1> Should be used for main headings, and <h2> should be used for sub headings, and <3> should be used for sub-sub headings, etc.

Example:

Spoiler ([Click to View](#))

 - Anything between these tags will be in bold.

Example:

Spoiler ([Click to View](#))

<i></i> - Anything between these tags will appear in Italics.

Example:

Spoiler ([Click to View](#))

<hr /> - Up until now you've only heard of elements that have an opening and a closing tag, however the this one does not. Everything you need is in one tag. This element is used to create a break between paragraphs, pictures, whatever!

Example:

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The above are just some examples of some common tags and their uses. I could go on for hours listing all of the elements HTML has to offer, however I will leave you with this [this](#) link to reference other elements.

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Definition, Unordered and Ordered Lists.

At some point or another you will definitely need to know how to create a list in HTML. There are three different types of lists you can create with HTML.

Ordered lists - Each item on the list is numbered.

Unordered lists - Lists begin with bullet points.

Definition lists - These lists are made up with set terms along with their meanings.

Examples:

An Ordered list will look like this:

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Here's the code:

```
Code <!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
```

```

  <head>
    <title>Clarks HTML/CSS Guide</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    <h1>How to code HTML</h1>
    <ol>
      <li>Download Brackets</li>
      <li>Read Clark's HF Tutorial</li>
      <li>Be a man</li>
    </ol>

  </body>
</html>
```

The `<ol></ol>` tags stand for "ordered list". Each item between the `<ol></ol>` tags must be put between the `<li></li>` tags, which stand for list item. Do you see how lists could be useful for tutorials and guides? Lists are crucial to learn. So what about the Unordered lists and Definition lists? We'll get to those, but let's make sure you're absorbing this. Create a list of your top THREE favourite movies or TV shows. Click the spoiler below to check your work.

Spoiler ([Click to View](#))Code <!DOCTYPE html>
<html>

```

  <head>
    <title>Clarks HTML/CSS Guide</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    <h1>Favourite TV Shows</h1>
    <ol>
      <li>Dexter</li>
      <li>Everybody Loves Raymond</li>
      <li>Modern Family</li>
    </ol>

  </body>
</html>
```

How'd that go over? Keep practicing if you need extra help. You'll pick it up eventually!

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Definition, Unordered and Ordered Lists.

Now, unordered lists are composed in the same fashion, just with different tags. Instead of starting off with the `<ol></ol>` tags, we're going to use the `<ul></ul>` tags which stand for unordered list. Unordered lists are represented with bullet points, in other words; no particular order.

Example:

An Unordered list will look like this:

Spoiler ([Click to View](#))

Here's the code:

Code <!DOCTYPE html>

<html>

<head>

<title>Clarks HTML/CSS Guide</title>

</head>

<body>

<h1>Parts needed for build</h1>

Case

GPU

CPU

</body>

</html>

So far so good? Do you see how unordered list work? Very similar to ordered lists, they just use bullet points instead. Items are still put between the tags and the layout is the same as it was on the ordered lists.

Lets quickly cover Definition Lists.

As mentioned earlier, definition lists are made up with set terms along with their meanings. Lets cover the three tags that Definition lists are made up of.

<dl> - Definition lists are created with the <dl> element and usually consists of a series of terms and their definition.

<dt> - This is used to contain the term being defined (definition term).

<dd> - Used to contain the definition.

Example:

Spoiler [\(Click to View\)](#)

Here's the code:

Code <!DOCTYPE html>

<html>

<head>

<title>Clarks HTML Guide</title>

</head>

<body>

<dl>

<dt>Hack Forums</dt>

<dd>

HackForums.net (often shortened to 'HF') is currently both the largest MyBB forum and hacking forum on the internet

</dd>

<dt>Hacking</dt>

<dd>

a hacker is someone who seeks and exploits weaknesses in a computer system or

computer network.

</dd>

</dl>

</body>

</html>

Do you see how it works? We start with the <dl></dl> tags, then between them, we add the term we'll be defining via the <dt></dt> tags. After that we add the actual definition between the <dd></dd> tags. I'd suggest creating a few lists of your own right now just to be sure everything is making sense to you.

The last thing I want to talk about in regards to HTML lists are nested lists. You can put a list inside of another list to create what is called a nested list.

Example:

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Here's the code:

Code <!DOCTYPE html>

<html>

<head>

<title>Clarks HTML Guide</title>

</head>

<body>

Food

Drinks

Iced Tea

Lemonade

Water

Plates

</body>

</html>

As you see we put a second list inside the element. It may look slightly confusing but when you break it down it's quite logical! Try creating your own nested list statement. You can always review the above codes if you get lost or confused.

clark.dll - April 21, 2014, 9:52 pm

Links:

Link are an essential part of the web. They allow you to move from one web page to the other. In other words, you couldn't surf the web without links.

Different types of links:Links from one website to another.

Links from one webpage to another on the same site.

Links that open in a new browser window.

Links that start up your email and address a new email to some body.

Links are created using the `<a>` element. You can click on anything between the opening `<a>` and the closing `</a>`. Remember when we were talking attributes? Well here's another important one. It's called href, and we use the href attribute to specify which page we want to link, or which section of a page we want to link.

Example:

Spoiler ([Click to View](#))

Here's the code:

Code `<a href="https://hackforums.net/">Hack Forums</a>`

If you click that link it will take you to Hack Forums main page. Makes sense right? Let's take a look at linking pages that are on the same site.

Let's assume all of your files are saved in one folder. All we need to do is set the attribute to the name of the specific file you'd like to be linked to. Remember that the files must be saved in the same folder for this to work. These are called relative URLs and they help when you're building a site because you do not need to set up a domain name or hosting.

Example:

Spoiler ([Click to View](#))

Here's the code:

Code `<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>`

```
<head>  
  <title>Clarks HTML Guide</title>  
</head>  
<body>  
  <ul>  
    <li><a href="index.html">Home</a></li>  
    <li><a href="about-us">About us</a></li>  
    <li><a href="contact.us">Contact us</a></li>  
  </ul>  
</body>  
</html>
```

If you click on any one of those links, they will direct you to whichever file/page you selected.

Let's look at email links.

In order to create a link that starts up the user's email program and addresses an email to a specified email address, you have to use the `<a>` element, and set the attribute to "href=mailto:emailaddresshere".

Example:

Spoiler ([Click to View](#))

Here's the code:

```
Code <!DOCTYPE html>
<html>

  <head>
    <title>Clarks HTML Guide</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    <a href="mailto:Elliot@live.com">Email Elliot</a>
  </body>
</html>
```

clark.dll - April 21, 2014, 9:52 pm

Pretty cool right? I think so anyway.

What if you want to open a link in a new window? Well, to do this it's real easy. All we have to do is link the website as we normally would using the href attribute, except now we're going to add another attribute called "target" and set it to "_blank".

Example:

Spoiler [\(Click to View\)](#)

Here's the code:

```
Code <a href="http://www.xbox.com/en-ca/#fbid=map6YNok1ZO" target="_blank">Open Xbox.com
in new Window</a>
```

Now if you were to click that link, it would direct you to The Xbox website, in a new window. It's always a good idea to let the user know the link opens in a new window.

That's all for now folks, I'd suggest reading everything over a few times and putting your new learned skills to use. You learn by doing after all.

?

glob - April 21, 2014, 9:53 pm

Very HQ thread from a good friend. Keep up the good work!

Also, VirusTotal, it would be great if you would remove your post. I think it interrupted the tutorial.

clark.dll - April 21, 2014, 10:01 pm

(Apr 21, 2014 09:52 PM)VirusTotal Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Very nice thread! Good Job Clark!!!

I appreciate the compliment, and your ability to read thousands of words per minute but it would be swell if you could remove your comment.

Crake - April 22, 2014, 4:51 pm

Nice comprehensive review of the basics, and it all looks to be in decent practice. I'll have to review in more depth later, but for now you have a professional's seal of approval!

Rawwwrrr - April 22, 2014, 4:55 pm

Thanks for putting this all in one place! Great thread!

clark.dll - April 22, 2014, 6:14 pm

(Apr 22, 2014 04:55 PM)2raw2 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Thanks for putting this all in one place! Great thread!

No problem. Thanks for the compliment.

Ventures - April 23, 2014, 2:10 pm

Very awesome guide. This should stay on top.

Coobro - April 23, 2014, 2:12 pm

Wow nice thread. very detailed and it looks like this will help a lot of starters.

Thanks for the thread :)

clark.dll - April 23, 2014, 5:34 pm

Thanks to the both of you, that's very kind.

LaFerrari - April 23, 2014, 10:41 pm

I know a friend who wants to start with HMTL. Going to show him this.

Thanks a bunch. ?

cyberducky - April 23, 2014, 10:45 pm

Great guide Clark. This will help people new to web development.

Morchid - April 23, 2014, 11:25 pm

If this doesn't help you out you can always check out Codecademy.

<http://www.codecademy.com>

Eeluminati - April 23, 2014, 11:34 pm

Very nice tutorial Clark Rubber. Vouch for the methods shown.

clark.dll - April 24, 2014, 1:57 am

(Apr 23, 2014 10:41 PM)Warren B. Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I know a friend who wants to start with HMTL.

Going to show him this.

Thanks a bunch. ?

Cheers man, tell him I wish him luck.

(Apr 23, 2014 11:25 PM)Morchid Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) If this doesn't help you out you can always check out Codecademy.

<http://www.codecademy.com>

Definitely another great resource.

(Apr 23, 2014 11:34 PM)Eeluminati Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Very nice tutorial Clark Rubber. Vouch for the methods shown.

Clark Rubber? Thanks though Eelummy.

(Apr 23, 2014 10:45 PM)Abide Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Great guide Clark. This will help people new to web development.

Mainly web design but yeah, HTML is definitely a good thing to know for web development!

Thank you Abide.

I guess I should start working on a part 2 soon.

LaFerrari - April 25, 2014, 2:51 am

(Apr 23, 2014 11:25 PM)Morchid Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) If this doesn't help you out you can always check out Codecademy.

<http://www.codecademy.com>

I used that to help me get started on some things, very helpful.

clark.dll - April 25, 2014, 5:05 pm

(Apr 25, 2014 02:51 AM)Warren B. Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I used that to help me get started on some things, very helpful.

If you're serious about learning web development, design, and app development I highly recommend checking out teamtreehouse.com. They're like a ten times better version of code academy with video lessons, easy analogies, clean site layout with profiles/reward systems/active community + forums the list goes on! It's 25 dollars a month, unless you're a student like me than it's only \$9 and they have videos on everything web related from SEO to freelancing tips. Awesome website.

clark.dll - April 28, 2014, 3:15 pm

Edited and revised a few sections. Take a look.

Querulous - May 4, 2014, 12:37 pm

Thanks for the radical tut, looking forward to more. Gracias OP :)

SimpleDutchy - May 4, 2014, 12:38 pm

Awesome thread, Clark. Very informative. Good job.

clark.dll - May 6, 2014, 9:46 am

(May 4, 2014 12:37 PM)Querulous Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Thanks for the radical tut, looking forward to more. Gracias OP :)

You're welcome.

(May 4, 2014 12:38 PM)SimpleDutchy Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Awesome thread, Clark. Very informative. Good job.

Thank you. I'm glad you liked it.

Orianthi - May 17, 2014, 12:06 pm

Nice basic intro. I was hoping to see stuff like:

<iframe>
<applet>
<embed>
etc.

JumpWar - May 19, 2014, 10:26 am

Really nice sum-up of the basics, good job.

Goodies - May 19, 2014, 10:20 pm

What a guy! Very nicely done Clark! I would have learned more in this thread than I did in a year of high school web design using a WYSIWYG.

clark.dll - May 19, 2014, 10:23 pm

Thanks for the positive feedback guys.

Kangaroo?? - May 19, 2014, 10:40 pm

Nice tutorial, good read ?

Goodies - May 19, 2014, 10:44 pm

The picture for <hr /> appears to be broken. Also, I suggest using the [php] BBcode if you like colors :)

clark.dll - May 19, 2014, 10:52 pm

(May 19, 2014 10:44 PM)Goodies Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) The picture for <hr /> appears to be broken. Also, I suggest using the [php] BBcode if you like colors :)

Oh crap, thanks for bringing that to my attention. Its been fixed.

Clique - June 2, 2014, 1:16 am

Well written introduction, Clerk. Do you recommend Dreamweaver for beginners as an editor?

Asuncion - June 2, 2014, 5:52 am

Great tutorial for beginners in HTML. Nice that you put effort in it. Great HQ thread Clark.

lol - June 2, 2014, 6:41 am

Thanks for this! I just gave this thread link to my friend from tafe :) I have one question if you don't mind, where can I find good tutorial on how to add a search engine (not google search engine) for my HTML? Like if I type contact us, it will lead me to the contactus.html?

Thank you.

Kind regards,
Fairyfloss

clark.dll - June 2, 2014, 7:36 am

(Jun 2, 2014 01:16 AM)Clique Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Well written introduction, Clerk. Do you recommend Dreamweaver for beginners as an editor?

Thanks clicker. If you're even remotely serious about learning web design I advise you to learn the fundamentals of HTML and CSS. Any real designer would never use Dreamweaver.

(Jun 2, 2014 06:41 AM)fairyfloss Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Thanks for this! I just gave this thread link to my friend from tafe :) I have one question if you don't mind, where can I find good tutorial on how to add a search engine (not google search engine) for my HTML? Like if I type contact us, it will lead me to the contactus.html?

Thank you.

Kind regards,
Fairyfloss

There is no feature in HTML that will perform that kind of search, unfortunately. You could upload a CGI page which uses PHP, Perl, or another scripting language to perform the local search for you though!

(Jun 2, 2014 05:52 AM)Asuncion Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Great tutorial for beginners in HTML. Nice that you put effort in it. Great HQ thread Clark.

Thanks
?

DudeThatsErin - June 2, 2014, 2:09 pm

Fantastic post! That would be a great addition to my forum, if you wanted to join and repost it there as well. You don't have to, but I love it either way. I've been wanting to show people some place that had all of this information all together like this and you made it easier for me. Thanks so much!

P.S. If you do want to repost (again not forcing or pushing you to do this) my forum url is <http://www.helpmeforcode.club/>

clark.dll - June 2, 2014, 3:51 pm

(Jun 2, 2014 02:09 PM)DudeThatsErin Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Fantastic post! That would be a great addition to my forum, if you wanted to join and repost it there as well. You don't have to, but I love it either way. I've been wanting to show people some place that had all of this information all together like this and you made it easier for me. Thanks so much!

P.S. If you do want to repost (again not forcing or pushing you to do this) my forum url is <http://www.helpmeforcode.club/>

I respect your forum, but I'd rather this thread remain solely for HF.
?

ChapTs - June 13, 2014, 2:41 pm

Great job, dude. Do you have any experience with PHP, and maybe consider also to make a tut for that? :)

Tonight - June 23, 2014, 6:45 pm

Gee whiz, Clark. You sure know a lot about HTML.

eight - July 27, 2014, 2:19 pm

Wow Clark, thanks for being hq. neato thread bud

Eeluminati - September 23, 2014, 11:51 pm

I am pretty noob with HTML but this is actually great. GJ Clark.

clark.dll - October 22, 2014, 7:06 am

SlightlyNuclear recommends everyone use Bootstrap.

Grin - December 19, 2014, 11:45 am

This is a high quality thread. I'm learning HTML. Clark told me to say that.

VoidF - December 19, 2014, 11:58 am

Great tutorial Clark! This will be useful for beginners. ?

Grin - December 19, 2014, 12:00 pm

(Dec 19, 2014 12:58 PM)VoidF Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Great tutorial Clark! This will be useful for beginners. ?
I didn't know you'd drop so low to asking non-upgraded members to bum9 your threads.

clark.dll - December 19, 2014, 12:01 pm

(Dec 19, 2014 01:00 PM)Grin Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I didn't know you'd drop so low to asking non-upgraded members to bum9 your threads.

Who are you? Please keep all trolling to a minimum here.
?

Shame - May 25, 2015, 8:50 pm

hi yes is the recommended tool for this dreamweaver? i need to know. thanks

Austerity - May 26, 2015, 12:41 am

Very nice introduction, I'm sure it will help new people learning HTML.

htmnilc - May 26, 2015, 10:20 am

Clark, I applaud you for this.

I was actually looking for an easy to understand guide on Nested lists to send to someone who had sent me an array of answers I didn't want to type up; I've book marked this now as you seem to have covered all of the solid basics!

Is this likely to be updated or added to? Are you going to be creating a downloadable version of this at all? Would be awesome to have a PDF of this concise information.

clark.dll - May 26, 2015, 11:27 am

(May 26, 2015 10:20 AM)htmnilc Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Clark, I applaud you for this.

I was actually looking for an easy to understand guide on Nested lists to send to someone who had sent me an array of answers I didn't want to type up; I've book marked this now as you seem to have covered all of the solid basics!

Is this likely to be updated or added to? Are you going to be creating a downloadable version of this at all? Would be awesome to have a PDF of this concise information.

I wasn't planning on continuing this here due to lack of interest but you can check out my Youtube Channel for more development tutorials.

Thanks