Understanding <HTML>

   HTML Is short for **H**yper**T**ext **M**arkup **L**anguage. Before you can write html code, you need to understand a little bit about how it works. It's not rocket science. It's very basic and is easy to learn once you know a few basic principles. So if you've always wanted to learn html but never took the time because you thought it was too complicated, now's your chance to take charge and get the basics down.

   To make it easier for you, it might be a good idea to print this up and read it while you're offline. I'm also going to ask you to open up notepad and start to copy down the codes I give you so you'll be getting the hands-on experience you need to learn this properly. Don't just read this and expect to learn it. It takes actually DOING to learn and with repitition and doing the same things over and over, like the old saying goes, practice makes perfect.

   After you print it up for offline reading, click on your start button and go to programs, accessories, and click on notepad. In the top of the notepad type one thing.

   <html>

   This simply tells your document to open up as an html document instead of plain text.

   The number one rule with html is that for every item of code you open with a tag, you must close it with another tag. Your closing tags have a forward slash. So the next thing you should type is

   </html>

   Everything else you do goes between these two tags. And just like the beginning html tags have an opening and closing tag, so must everything in between.

The next tags you want to put in will be your header tags. These tell the document what you want to name it among other things. Later on you can also place your meta tags here to tell the search engines what they need to know in order to index your site, but first, let's move along and just put in our head tags.

<html><head></head></html>

Between the head tags is where we can put our title tags. This is where you can name your site and it will show in the top of the browser when people go to your site. So you want to make this something that will grab attention or give a brief description of what your site is about. I'm just going to put an example title in here so you can see it.

<html><head><title>My HTML Lesson</title></head>

Now that you've given your site a name, it's time to start putting the body of the site together and that begins by typing the body tags. Everything, and I mean EVERYTHING goes between these two tags. Also anything you put in at the beginning as far as text size, font color, style and everything else can be changed as you go, so what we make it now might be changed later from red to green or whatever color, size, or other attribute. For now we're going to work with black text and white background.

<html><head><title>My HTML Lesson</title></head>

<body bgcolor="#ffffff" font color="#000000">Here is my first lesson on formatting html text.</body></html>

You might be asking what is the #ffffff and #000000? This series of tags opens the document's body up and tells it that you want a white background color with black text. The white is #ffffff and black is #000000.

You can learn more about hexidecimal codes for web colors by typing "hexidecimal codes" in your favorite search engine.

To make your text bold, underline it, or make it in italics you will need to use these tags. for bold text, <u> for underlined text, and <i> for italicized text.

Always remember to close every tag with a , </u>, or </i>

If you've been following along so far, you should have something like this on your notepad now, if you don't, please go ahead and put it in.

<html><head><title>My HTML Lesson</title></head>

<body bgcolor="#ffffff" font color="#000000"><p><u><i>Here's my first lesson on making text bold, underlined or in italics.</u></i></body></html>

Another quick thing to remember is that you don't have to use hexidecimal color codes to get the same results. You can just type the name of the color, like red, blue, green, etc.. and it will work. But if you want to get the exact color you want, the hexidecimal color charts you'll find when you look in search will do a much better job of matching the color you're looking for.

This is the end of your first lesson.

Please click on file in your notepad, and save as to save your notepad as an html file. Name it something like Mypage.html. In the drop down menu at the bottom, go to "all files", and it will save as html. Send it to your desktop so you can find it quickly to start your next lesson when you're ready. When you want to open it in notepad, just right click and open with notepad.

Help is always available if you need it, just email me at heartuvgold@gmail.com and I will answer within 48 hours.

Your next lesson will more fully explain how to use text and font styles and colors to enhance your writing and make your web pages look more professional.

So let's use the basic template we created in Lesson one to start improving on what we've already done.

<html><head><title>My HTML Lesson</title></head>

<body bgcolor="#ffffff" font color="#000000"><u><i>Here's my first lesson on making text bold, underlined or in italics.</u></i></body></html>

What we have here is pretty basic. What if we want to change the font color or size or make the font a different style? We'll need to change the things we want in the tags and make them happen the way we want them to. So let's get started and see what we can come up with.

I'll make a few simple modifications to the font tags and then I'll explain it afterward so you can do it for yourself.

<html><head><title>My HTML Lesson</title></head>

<body bgcolor="#ffffff" font color="#000000"><u><i>Here's my first lesson on making text bold, underlined or in italics.</u></i>

It's fun to change the color and have it show on the page, and I learned how to do it all by myself! </body></html>

As you can see I've made the font a different style by making the size a little larger and changing the color to red. I've also used the strong tag to make the font a little more bold. The <b> tag works for this as well, but some browsers no longer recognize this, so we use the <strong> tag for those browsers to be able to get the information.

There are a lot of cool things you can do with text and that's far from being all you can learn about html. Next we're going to learn about linking and putting images and more cool stuff on your page. But first, it's time to make sure that you have your lesson updated, so copy the text from above and update your lesson so you can view it in your browser and see how far you've come already!

So go ahead and do that now. I'll wait for you:)

;

;

;

;

;

;

Cool! I'm so glad you came back!

Here we go. We're going to learn about linking to other cool sites and using images and stuff. So here goes nothing:)

Remember that you have to do everything between the <body> tags, so the best place to start this lesson is right before the </body>.

I'm going to show you the one tag you need for linking to a site or image or e-mail address or anything else you want to link to.

Here's what it looks like.

Text here

If I wanted to link to Yahoo.com and make the link go to text that says, "Here's where you can get a great e-mail address!" I would simply use the above tag and put the url to yahoo with the text above.

Here's where you can get a great e-mail address!

And here's what the result would be.

Here's where you can get a great e-mail address!

There are a few more basic attributes you can assign to a link, such as how it opens in the browser. You might want to make it open in a new window or tab, so you would add the target tag to do this.

Right after the "http://www.yahoo.com" put target="_blank" or target="_new"> to do this. This way people won't leave the page you want them to stay on, but the links will open in a new window and they can always close it to come back to the page they're on. This will help you not to lose people off your page when you direct them to a link to another page.

Here's the link code again. Now you can see the target tag in place.

Here's where you can get a great e-mail address!

Of course you can change this to the webpage you want people to go to from your own page. We'll add this to your lesson as well.

<html><head><title>My HTML Lesson</title></head><body bgcolor="#ffffff"><u><i>Here's my first lesson on making text bold, underlined or in italics.</u></i><p>It's fun to change the color and have it show on the page, and I learned how to do it all by myself! <p>And today I learned how to make a hyperlink to my favorite website!<p>Here's where you can get a great e-mail address!</body></html>

One other little item I forgot to tell you about is the paragraph tag, or <p> which will move your text to a new line or paragraph. Any time you want to move to a new line instead of continuing text on the same line, just use the <p> tag. It's not necessary to use a </p> with this, but some people do anyway. It's all about preference with this one.

Copy the above code as is and remember to save it and direct the drop down menu at the bottom to "all files" again and you'll be able to click on the file and view it in your browser. To view it in notepad you can just right click and open with notepad.

Now go take a nice break you deserve it. Don't try to do this all in one lesson. You can always come back to it when you're ready. Just take a little break and spend some time with your family. I'll move on but you don't have to.

The next part of the linking lesson is in doing image linking. So if you want to you can be looking for a cool image or two to link to. You can right click and save images you find to your hard drive and then upload them to a free web host like photobucket.com to get a url to use with your page.

If you want your image to center in the middle of the page, just use the <center></center> tags.

I'm going to link an image to a website. It's a banner and when you click it will open a new window to view the page.

<center><img src="http://www.primo-hosting.com/images/replic1.gif" border="0"></center>

Note: I also added the tag border="0" so it wouldn't have that ugly blue ring around it. That makes it look like it's part of the page and not like it comes from someplace else.

Proud Member of CMU7

When you put this code in your lesson, it will show you the actual image when you view it in your browser.

So here's the update for your lesson again. Look how far you've come already!

<html><head><title>My HTML Lesson</title></head><body bgcolor="#ffffff" font color="#000000"><p><u><i>Here's my first lesson on making text bold, underlined or in italics.</u></i><p>It's fun to change the color and have it show on the page, and I learned how to do it all by myself!<p>And today I learned how to make a hyperlink to my favorite website!<p>Here's where you can get a great e-mail address!<p>And I even learned how to link to IMAGES!<p><center><img src="http://www.primo-hosting.com/images/replic1.gif" border="0"></center></body></html>

These lessons should get you off to a good start on learning html. If you want to learn more, feel free to contact me and let me know if you need help. I'll be more than happy to work with you any time.

Sincerely,

Rebecca (heartuvgold) Beasley

heartuvgold@gmail.com