

## Simple HTML Tags

HTML (HyperText Markup Language) is the mechanism used to build Web pages from ordinary text documents. It consists of a series of “tags” which are used to tell the browser software how to present portions of text.

Although HTML is a complex and often technical language, there are a few tags you can easily use to liven up your text before sending it to an automatic page update process. Please note that you cannot use a word processor to format postings for the Web. HTML browsers don't know how to read the formatting codes used by word processors. You must use a text editor, like Microsoft Notepad. Or, you can use a word processor, but you must save the document as plain ASCII text before pasting it into your web form.

HTML tags are often used in pairs, an opening tag and a closing tag. Don't forget to include a closing tag, otherwise the rest of your post will be shown using whatever opening tag was used last! Here is an example of a simple sentence with some underlined words in it:

The quick brown fox <u>jumped over</u> the lazy brown dog.

Noticed that the words “jumped over” are enclosed in a pair of HTML tags that indicate they should be underlined. All HTML tags begin with “<” and end with “>”. Opening and closing tags are usually similar, except closing tags contain a “/”. Therefore, in the sentence above, the opening tag is “<u>” and the corresponding closing tag is “</u>”.

Our example sentence would look like this when viewed with an HTML browser:

The quick brown fox jumped over the lazy brown dog.

Most HTML tags are pretty straightforward, but some have side effects that you must be aware of when using them. These effects will be noted on the following page. Also keep in mind that you can combine tags to get multiple effects on text such as bold and underlined at the same time. Some examples are included in the next page.

# HTML Tag Examples

## Text with HTML Tags

This sentence has a `<b>bold</b>` word in it.

This sentence has an `<u>underlined</u>` word in it.

This sentence has an `<i>italicized</i>` word in it.

This has `<b><u><i>all three</i></u></b>` in it.

This is what happens `<b>` if you forget a closing tag. Everything is still bold!

The following tags are “heading” tags and are used to display titles and section headings. Note that they will always appear on a line by themselves.

`<h1>`This is heading type 1.`</h1>`

`<h2>`This is heading type 2.`</h2>`

`<h3>`This is heading type 3. `</h3>`

`<h4>`This is heading type 4. `</h4>`

`<h5>`This is heading type 5. `</h5>`

## How It Looks on the Web

This sentence has a **bold** word in it.

This sentence has an underlined word in it.

This sentence has an *italicized* word in it.

This has **all three** in it.

This is what happens **if you forget a closing tag. Everything is still bold!**

**This is heading type 1.**

**This is heading type 2.**

**This is heading type 3.**

This is heading type 4.

This is heading type 5.

Another special tag is the `<hr>` tag or Horizontal Rule tag. It’s used to display a line between paragraphs or sections. `<hr>` is always shown on a line by itself like the following example:

...this is the end of the first section.

`<hr>`

This is the start of a new section...

Which would be displayed as follows:

...this is the end of the first section.

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This is the start of a new section...

Note that there is no closing tag for `<hr>`.

