## What is HTML?

HTML is a language for describing web pages.

* HTML stands for **H**yper **T**ext **M**arkup **L**anguage
* HTML is not a programming language, it is a **markup language**
* A markup language is a set of **markup tags**
* HTML uses **markup tags** to describe web pages

## HTML Tags

HTML markup tags are usually called HTML tags

* HTML tags are keywords surrounded by **angle brackets** like <html>
* HTML tags normally **come in pairs** like <b> and </b>
* The first tag in a pair is the **start tag,** the second tag is the **end tag**
* Start and end tags are also called **opening tags** and **closing tags**

## HTML Documents = Web Pages

* HTML documents **describe web pages**
* HTML documents **contain HTML tags** and plain text
* HTML documents are also **called web pages**

The purpose of a web browser (like Internet Explorer or Firefox) is to read HTML documents and display them as web pages. The browser does not display the HTML tags, but uses the tags to interpret the content of the page:

|  |
| --- |
| <html><body><h1>My First Heading</h1><p>My first paragraph.</p></body></html> |

## Example Explained

* The text between <html> and </html> describes the web page
* The text between <body> and </body> is the visible page content
* The text between <h1> and </h1> is displayed as a heading
* The text between <p> and </p> is displayed as a paragraph

## HTML Elements

An HTML element is everything from the start tag to the end tag:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Start tag \*** | **Element content** | **End tag \*** |
| <p> | This is a paragraph | </p> |
| <a href="default.htm" > | This is a link | </a> |
| <br /> |   |   |

**\*** The start tag is often called the **opening tag**. The end tag is often called the **closing tag**.

## HTML Element Syntax

* An HTML element starts with a **start tag / opening tag**
* An HTML element ends with an **end tag / closing tag**
* The **element content** is everything between the start and the end tag
* Some HTML elements have **empty content**
* Empty elements are **closed in the start tag**
* Most HTML elements can have **attributes**

**Tip:** You will learn about attributes in the next chapter of this tutorial.

## HTML Attributes

* HTML elements can have **attributes**
* Attributes provide **additional information** about an element
* Attributes are always specified in **the start tag**

Attributes come in name/value pairs like: **name="value"**

## Attribute Example

HTML links are defined with the <a> tag. The link address is specified in the href attribute:

|  |
| --- |
| <a href="http://www.w3schools.com">This is a link</a> |

## HTML Attributes Reference

A complete list of legal attributes for each HTML element is listed in our:

http://www.w3schools.com/tags/default.asp

Below is a list of some attributes that are standard for most HTML elements:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Attribute** | **Value** | **Description** |
| class | *classname* | Specifies a classname for an element |
| id | *id* | Specifies a unique id for an element |
| style | *style\_definition* | Specifies an inline style for an element |
| title | *tooltip\_text* | Specifies extra information about an element (displayed as a tool tip) |

## HTML Text Formatting Tags

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Tag** | **Description** |
| <b> | Defines bold text |
| <big> | Defines big text |
| <em> | Defines emphasized text  |
| <i> | Defines italic text |
| <small> | Defines small text |
| <strong> | Defines strong text |
| <sub> | Defines subscripted text |
| <sup> | Defines superscripted text |

Reference: http://www.w3schools.com/default.asp