

A Basic HTML "Cheat Sheet" • Music 1360, Spring 09

HTML, or the *HyperText Markup Language*, was designed by Tim Berners-Lee. HTML is able to enhance documents by "marking up" the text using formatting information, links to other documents, and embedded media such as graphics, music, movies, etc.

In HTML, we need special text to achieve these enhancements. These special instructions are called **tags**. Tags are "enclosed" in the less-than and greater-than signs ("`<`" and "`>`"), because they typically aren't used as punctuation marks. Each tag surrounds the text it marks up. The tag "opens", the text it modifies comes next, and finally, the tag "closes".

Tags names typically reflect what the tag's job is. For example, the tag used for boldface is ``. So, to make a block of text bold, the markup looks like this:

This is an example of `making something bold`.

The `` and `` define the beginning and end points of the boldface area. When a web browser sees the above code, it applies the markup to the text. The "rendered" code would look like this:

This is an example of **making something bold**.

Here is a table of some basic HTML tags:

Tag	Closing Tag	Description
<code></code>	<code></code>	Emphasis. Typically rendered as boldface.
<code></code>	<code></code>	Emphasis. Typically rendered as italics.
<code><u></code>	<code></u></code>	Underline.
<code><h1></code> , <code><h2></code> , <code><h3></code>	<code></h1></code> , <code></h2></code> , <code></h3></code>	Header. The number indicates a heading level within a document's hierarchy, and is typically rendered using different font sizes.
<code><p></code>	<code></p></code>	Paragraph. All text must be surrounded by <code><p></code> or similar "block-level" tags.
<code></code>	None – note how img closes itself	Used for including images in the flow of text.
<code></code>	<code></code>	Unordered List, typically rendered with bullet points in front of each list item.
<code></code>	<code></code>	Ordered List, typically rendered with numbers in front of each list item.
<code></code>	<code></code>	List Item, for members of lists. Only legal inside <code></code> or <code></code>
<code>
</code>	None – note how br closes itself	Line break – inserts a blank line.
<code><hr /></code>	None – note how hr closes itself	Horizontal Rule, or Hairline, a graphical element.
<code><html></code>	<code></html></code>	Begins and ends the HTML document. Almost everything else will be inside these tags.
<code><head></code>	<code></head></code>	The document's header. Contains various information that does not appear in the body of the document. Only legal inside <code><html></code> .
<code><title></code>	<code></title></code>	The title of the document, typically displayed in the browser title bar. Only legal inside <code><head></code> .
<code><body></code>	<code></body></code>	The body of the document, essentially what the user sees inside his or her browser window. Only legal inside <code><html></code> .