LESSON 1

GETTING STARTED

Aim
Understand the basics of HTML and create your first HTML page.

WHAT IS AN HTML PAGE?

HTML stands for Hypertext Markup Language. An HTML page is a text file that contains special characters called markup tags. The tags describe how the page should be displayed when you view it via a Browser such as Netscape Navigator or Internet Explorer.

HTML works in a very simple, very logical, format. It reads like you do, top to bottom, left to right. That's important to remember. HTML is written with TEXT. What you use to set certain sections apart as bigger text, smaller text, bold text, underlined text, is a series of tags.

WHAT IS A TAG?

Think of tags as commands. Let's say you want a line of text to be bold. You will put a tag at the exact point you want the bold lettering to start and another tag where you want the bold lettering to stop. If you want just a word to be italic, you will place a start italic tag at the beginning of the word and an end italic tag at the end of the word. For your convenience a list of all the tags that you will need for this course can be found in "Appendix_1.pdf".

CREATE AN HTML PAGE

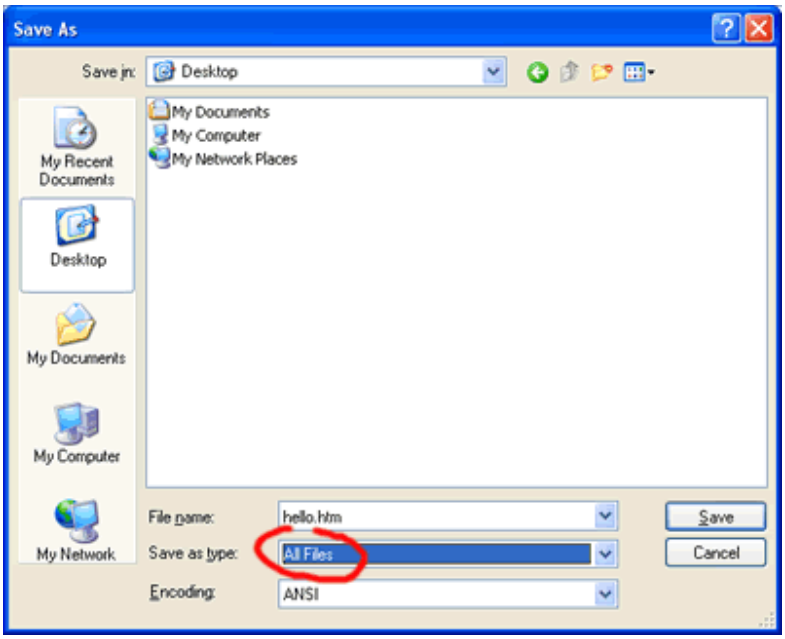
You don't need to be connected to the Internet to create or view HTML pages. You don't even need complex software. All that you require to create HTML pages is a simple text editor such as Notepad if you are using a windows based computer or Simpletext if you are using an Apple computer.

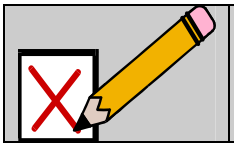
Start Notepad (or Simpletext) and type the following:

```
<html>
<head>
      <title>My first web page</title>
</head>
<body>
    Hello World!
</body>
</html>
```

We will be creating several web pages during this course so create a directory on your computer called `www` to store all our pages
e.g. you might like to create a directory on your machine called `c:\my documents\www\`

Save the file as `hello.htm` into the `www` directory (you will have to choose 'All files' from the save as file type drop down list)





SELF ASSESSMENT
Perform the self assessment test titled ' test 1.1'
If you answer incorrectly, review the notes and try the test again.

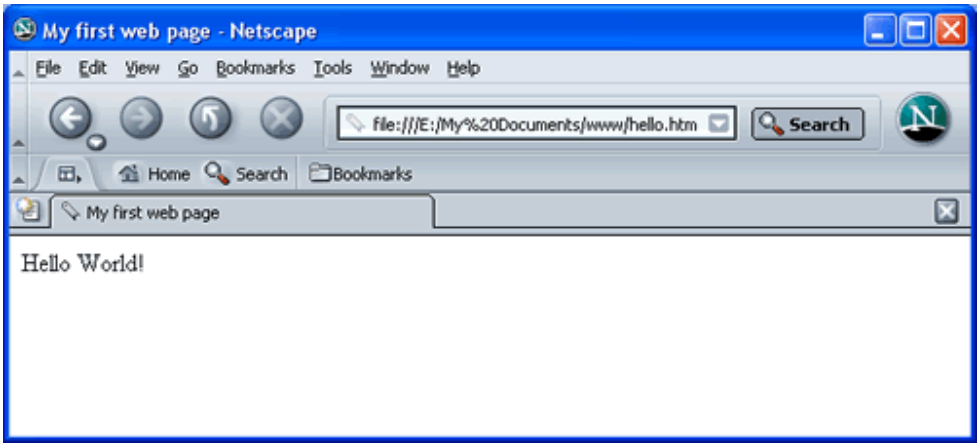
VIEW YOUR HTML PAGE
Start your Internet Browser. Then open the HTML page we just created:

e.g. Internet Explorer 6:

Choose `File….Open` . A small dialog window will open, click `Browse` on the small dialog window, this will open a larger dialog window, now go to the `/www` directory select `hello.htm` then click `Open` on the large dialog window to close it now click `Ok` on the small dialog

e.g. Netscape 7:

Choose `File … Open File` Find the `hello.htm` file select it the click `Open`



OUR FIRST PAGE EXPLAINED

As mentioned earlier an HTML page contains Tags that describe how a page should be displayed in the browser. Even a simple page such as our Hello World page has many different tags:

`<html>` ← All html pages have this tag it simply says that the following is an html page

`<head>` ← An HTML page has two parts the Head and the Body this tag says that this is the start of the Head section of the page

`<title>My first web page</title>` ← The page title. This appears in the Browsers menu bar

`</head>` ← The end of the Head section

`<body>` ← The start of the body section

`Hello World!` ← The content of the page

`</body>` ← The end of the body section

`</html>` ← The end of the HTML document

THE STRUCTURE OF TAGS

Tags are not case sensitive `<em>` means the same as `<EM>`. However, lowercase is the standard that has been adopted for future versions of HTML (called XHTML). Some Tags have attributes

For example `<table border="1">.`

Here `border="1"` is the attribute of the `<table>` tag and in this case the browser will create a table with a border 1 pixel wide.

Tags can have one or more attributes. Here are some other examples of tags and attributes:

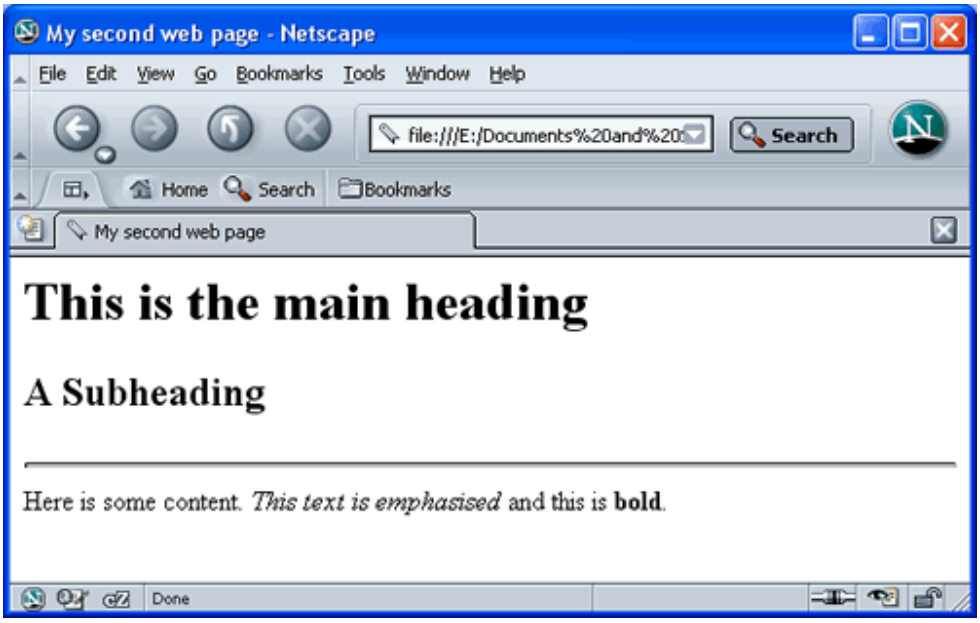
`<p align=”left>`	Align the text in this paragraph to the left.
`<td valign=”top” width=”50%”>`	Make a table cell 50 percent as wide as the table wide and align its contents to the top of the cell.
`<font color=”#999999”>`	Make the following text this colour.

As we progress in the course we will explore these and more.

A MORE DETAILED WEB PAGE EXAMPLE
Open your text editor and type the following HTML:

```
<html>
<head>
<title>My second web page</title>
</head>
<body>
<h1>This is the main heading</h1>
<h2>A Subheading</h2>
<hr>
Here is some content.<em>This text is emphasised</em>
and this is <strong>bold</strong>.
</body>
</html>
```

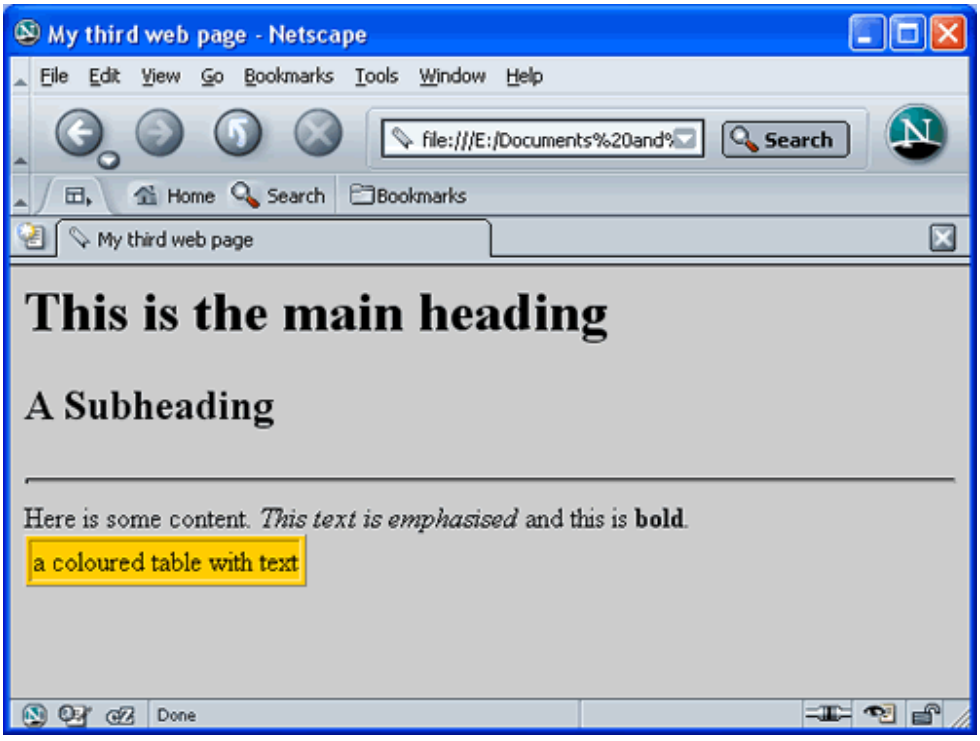
Save the file and open it in a web browser.
If you have used Microsoft word you will recognise the `h1` and `h2` tags these describe headings just as they do in Word.


My second web page - Netscape
File Edit View Go Bookmarks Tools Window Help
file:///E:/Documents%20and%20
Search
Home Search Bookmarks
My second web page
This is the main heading
A Subheading
Here is some content. This text is emphasised and this is bold.
Done

ADDING SOME COLOUR

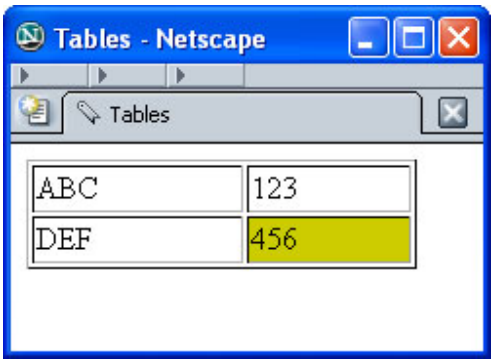
Open Notepad and type the following HTML, save the file then open it in a Browser:

```
<html>
<head>
<title>My third web page</title>
</head>
<body bgcolor="#CCCCCC">
<h1>This is the main heading</h1>
<h2>A Subheading</h2>
<hr>
Here is some content.<em>This text is emphasised</em> and this is
<strong>bold</strong>.
<table bgcolor="#FFCC00" border="1">
   <tr>
        <td>a coloured table with text</td>
   </tr>
</table>
</body>
</html>
```

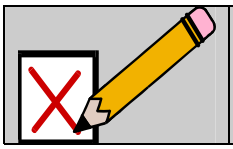


You can also add colour by placing a colour attribute directly into the table cell

```
<table width="200" border="1">
  <tr>
    <td>ABC</td>
    <td>123</td>
  </tr>
  <tr>
    <td>DEF</td>
    <td bgcolor="#CCCC00">456</td>
  </tr>
</table>
```



HTML TAGS
During this course you will be required to understand and implement a variety of tags. For your convenience there is a list of all the tags that you will need in Appendix 1.



SELF ASSESSMENT
Perform the self assessment test titled ' test 1.2'
If you answer incorrectly, review the notes and try the test again.

SET TASK
Create a web page. The title of the page should be `Writing HTML Lesson One` and should have a large heading that says `Writing HTML Lesson One` and a smaller heading that says `Set Task One`. Experiment with some of the tags you find in the Appendix notes add some content text and include two different colours somewhere on the page.

ASSIGNMENT
Download and do the assignment called 'Lesson 1 Assignment'.