
MODULE 1: INTRODUCTION TO HTML

Lesson 1.3: HTML File Structure (Part 1)

Introduction

In the previous lessons, you learned what HTML is and how web pages work. You also learned that a web browser reads HTML code and displays it as a webpage.

Before creating attractive websites, it is important to understand the basic structure of an HTML document. Every HTML file follows a standard structure that tells the browser where the webpage begins, where information about the webpage is stored, and where the visible content should appear.

Learning the structure of an HTML document is like learning the foundation of a house. Without a proper foundation, the house cannot be built correctly. Likewise, every HTML webpage begins with a basic document structure before additional elements such as headings, images, tables, and forms are added.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this lesson, learners should be able to:

- Describe the basic structure of an HTML document.
 - Identify the main parts of an HTML document.
 - Explain the purpose of each HTML tag in the document structure.
 - Differentiate between the <head> and <body> sections.
 - Create and save a simple HTML file.
 - Open an HTML file using a web browser.
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What is an HTML Document?

Definition

An **HTML document** is a text file that contains HTML code used to create a webpage.

An HTML document is usually saved with one of the following file extensions:

- **.html**
- **.htm**

Examples:

index.html
about.html
contact.html
gallery.html

When an HTML document is opened in a web browser, the browser reads the HTML code and displays it as a webpage.

The Basic Structure of an HTML Document

Every HTML document follows the same basic structure.

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>

<head>
  <title>My First Webpage</title>
</head>

<body>

  <h1>Welcome to HTML</h1>

  <p>This is my first webpage.</p>

</body>

</html>
```

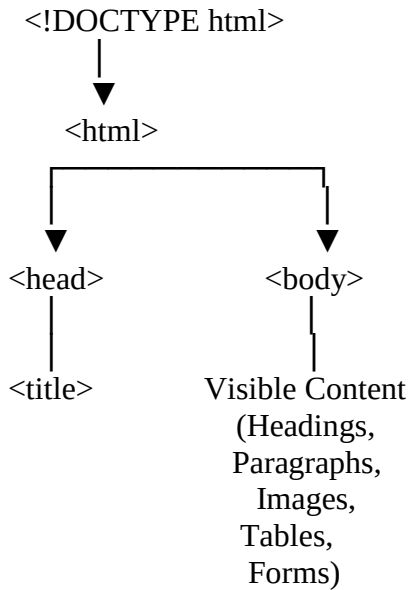
Output

Welcome to HTML

This is my first webpage.

Illustration of the HTML Document Structure

HTML DOCUMENT



The diagram shows that an HTML document has two main sections:

- The **Head Section**
- The **Body Section**

Main Parts of an HTML Document

A basic HTML document consists of the following parts:

HTML Tag	Purpose
<!DOCTYPE html>	Declares that the document is an HTML5 document.
<html>	The root element that contains the entire webpage.
<head>	Contains information about the webpage that is not displayed on the page itself.
<title>	Displays the title on the browser tab.
<body>	Contains all the visible content displayed in the browser.

1. The <!DOCTYPE html> Declaration

Definition

The <!DOCTYPE html> declaration tells the web browser that the document is written in **HTML5**, which is the current version of HTML.

It must always appear on the **first line** of every HTML document.

Example

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
```

Explanation

Although it looks like an HTML tag, <!DOCTYPE html> is actually a **declaration**, not an HTML element.

It helps the browser display the webpage correctly.

2. The <html> Element

Definition

The <html> element is the **root element** of an HTML document.

It contains every other HTML element in the webpage.

Example

```
<html>
```

```
</html>
```

Explanation

Everything that belongs to the webpage must be placed between the opening <html> tag and the closing </html> tag.

Illustration

```
<html>
```

Everything inside the webpage goes here.

```
</html>
```

3. The <head> Element

Definition

The <head> element contains information **about** the webpage.

The information inside the <head> section is **not displayed** on the webpage itself.

Instead, it provides information used by the browser.

Example

```
<head>
```

```
<title>My First Webpage</title>
```

```
</head>
```

Information Stored in the <head> Section

The <head> section may contain:

- The page title.
 - Links to CSS files.
 - Character encoding information.
 - Metadata.
 - Links to icons (favicons).
 - JavaScript files.
-

4. The <title> Element

Definition

The <title> element specifies the title of the webpage.

The title appears:

- On the browser tab.
 - In bookmarks.
 - In search engine results.
-

Example

```
<title>Kabwe Secondary School</title>
```

Illustration

Kabwe Secondary School

The title is displayed on the browser tab, **not inside the webpage**.

Real-Life Example

Think of a textbook.

- The **cover page** shows the title of the book.
- The **inside pages** contain the actual content.

Similarly:

- The `<title>` gives the webpage its name.
 - The `<body>` contains the webpage content.
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Did You Know?

- Every HTML document should begin with `<!DOCTYPE html>`.
 - The `<title>` is one of the most important elements because it identifies the webpage in the browser tab.
 - The `<head>` section is essential even though its contents are not usually visible on the webpage.
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End of Part 1

In **Part 2**, we will cover:

- The <body> element.
- Opening and closing tags.
- HTML elements.
- Nested elements.
- Empty elements.
- Creating your first HTML file.
- Saving an HTML document.
- Viewing an HTML document in a web browser.

This is the practical section where learners will write and run their first HTML page.