

MODULE 1: INTRODUCTION TO HTML

Lesson 1.3: HTML File Structure (Part 3)

Importance of Understanding HTML File Structure

Understanding the structure of an HTML document is important because it:

- Provides the foundation for creating all web pages.
 - Helps the web browser correctly interpret and display HTML code.
 - Makes HTML documents organised and easy to read.
 - Makes it easier to identify and correct errors in HTML code.
 - Prepares learners for more advanced HTML topics such as headings, paragraphs, images, tables, lists, and forms.
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Applications of HTML File Structure

The basic structure of an HTML document is used when creating:

- Personal websites
- School websites
- Business websites
- Government websites
- News websites
- Educational websites
- Online portfolios
- Blogs

Every HTML webpage, regardless of its purpose, begins with the same basic document structure.

Real-Life Example

Imagine building a house.

Before constructing the walls, roof, doors, and windows, a strong **foundation** must first be built.

Similarly, before adding headings, paragraphs, images, tables, and forms to a webpage, you must first create the **basic HTML document structure**.

Building a House	Creating a Webpage
Foundation	HTML document structure
Walls	HTML elements
Doors and Windows	Images, Links and Tables
Paint	CSS Styling

Without a proper foundation, the house cannot stand. Likewise, without the correct HTML structure, a webpage may not display correctly.

Examination Tips

Remember the following points:

- ✓ Every HTML document begins with `<!DOCTYPE html>`.
 - ✓ The `<html>` element is the root element of an HTML document.
 - ✓ The `<head>` section contains information **about** the webpage.
 - ✓ The `<title>` element displays the title on the browser tab.
 - ✓ The `<body>` section contains everything displayed on the webpage.
 - ✓ Most HTML elements have an opening tag and a closing tag.
 - ✓ Empty elements do not have closing tags.
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Common Mistakes

Learners often make the following mistakes:

Incorrect Practice	Correct Practice
Forgetting <code><!DOCTYPE html></code> .	Always begin an HTML document with <code><!DOCTYPE html></code> .
Placing visible content inside the <code><head></code> section.	Place visible content inside the <code><body></code> section.
Forgetting closing tags.	Close HTML elements correctly.
Saving the file as <code>index.txt</code> .	Save the file as <code>index.html</code> .
Closing nested tags in the wrong order.	Close the inner element before the outer element.

Key Points Summary

- An HTML document is a text file saved with the **.html** or **.htm** extension.
 - Every HTML document follows a standard structure.
 - `<!DOCTYPE html>` declares that the document uses HTML5.
 - The `<html>` element contains the entire webpage.
 - The `<head>` section stores information about the webpage.
 - The `<title>` element specifies the title shown on the browser tab.
 - The `<body>` section contains all the visible content of the webpage.
 - Most HTML elements consist of an opening tag, content, and a closing tag.
 - Some HTML elements, such as `<br>`, `<hr>`, and `<img>`, are empty elements.
 - HTML files can be created using a simple text editor and viewed in a web browser.
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Practical Activities

Activity 1: Identify the Parts of an HTML Document

Study the HTML code below and identify the purpose of each numbered section.

```
<!DOCTYPE html>      (1)
<html>                (2)

<head>                (3)
  <title>My School</title> (4)
</head>

<body>                (5)
  <h1>Welcome</h1>
  <p>This is my first webpage.</p>
</body>

</html>
```

Fill in the table below.

Number	HTML Element	Purpose
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

Activity 2: Create Your First HTML Webpage

Using **Notepad** or another text editor:

1. Type the basic HTML document structure.
2. Change the title to **My First HTML Page**.
3. Add the heading:

Welcome to Grade 12 Computer Studies

4. Add the paragraph:

I am learning HTML.

5. Save the file as **index.html**.
6. Open the file in your web browser.

Activity 3: Complete the Table

Write the correct purpose of each HTML element.

HTML Element	Purpose
<!DOCTYPE html>	_____
<html>	_____
<head>	_____
<title>	_____
<body>	_____

Self-Assessment Questions

1. What is an HTML document?
2. State two file extensions used for HTML documents.
3. List the five main parts of a basic HTML document.
4. Explain the purpose of each of the following:
 - <!DOCTYPE html>
 - <html>
 - <head>
 - <title>
 - <body>
5. What is the difference between the <head> and <body> sections?
6. Define the following terms:
 - HTML element
 - Nested element

- Empty element
 - 7. State three examples of empty HTML elements.
 - 8. Explain the steps involved in creating and saving an HTML document.
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Examination-Style Questions

Section A: Multiple Choice Questions

1. Which HTML element contains all the visible content of a webpage?

- A. <head>
- B. <body>
- C. <title>
- D. <html>

Answer: B

2. Which HTML element displays the title on the browser tab?

- A. <head>
- B. <body>
- C. <title>
- D. <h1>

Answer: C

3. Which file extension is commonly used for HTML documents?

- A. .doc
- B. .txt
- C. .html
- D. .jpg

Answer: C

4. Which declaration should appear on the first line of an HTML document?

- A. <html>
- B. <head>
- C. <!DOCTYPE html>
- D. <body>

Answer: C

Section B: Short Answer Questions

1. Define an HTML document.
 2. State the purpose of the <head> section.
 3. Differentiate between the <head> and <body> sections.
 4. Explain the purpose of the <title> element.
 5. What is an empty element? Give three examples.
 6. Describe the steps involved in creating and saving an HTML file.
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Section C: Practical Question

Create a webpage using the basic HTML document structure.

The webpage should display:

- **Title:** My School Website
- **Heading:** Welcome to Kabwe Secondary School
- **Paragraph:** This is my first HTML webpage.

Save the file as **index.html** and open it in a web browser.

Exam Quick Review

Before the examination, make sure you can answer the following questions without referring to your notes:

- ✓ What is an HTML document?

- ✓ What file extension is used for HTML documents?
 - ✓ What are the five main parts of an HTML document?
 - ✓ What is the purpose of `<!DOCTYPE html>`?
 - ✓ What is the difference between the `<head>` and `<body>` sections?
 - ✓ Where is the webpage title displayed?
 - ✓ What is an HTML element?
 - ✓ What is a nested element?
 - ✓ What is an empty element?
 - ✓ What are the steps for creating and saving an HTML document?
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Lesson Summary

In this lesson, you learned that every HTML webpage begins with a standard document structure. You explored the purpose of the `<!DOCTYPE html>` declaration and the `<html>`, `<head>`, `<title>`, and `<body>` elements. You also learned about opening and closing tags, nested elements, and empty elements, and created your first HTML webpage using a text editor. Understanding this structure provides the foundation for all the HTML topics that follow.

Looking Ahead

In **Lesson 2.1: HTML Editors**, you will learn about the different tools used to write HTML code, including text editors and Integrated Development Environments (IDEs). You will compare popular HTML editors such as **Notepad**, **Notepad++**, and **Visual Studio Code**, and discover how these tools make web development easier and more efficient.