

HTML: A Primer

When entering information into the upper or lower text block of a WebCT organizer page, you can simply type text so that it appears on your web page. This may result in your web page looking somewhat bland and not as engaging for your user as you might wish. To make your page more interesting, you can type in HTML commands in to the upper and lower text blocks. This job aid will give you some basic HTML commands that you can use to customize your WebCT pages. Experiment with what they can do!

1. A key part of HTML coding is a tag. Each command or tag is written between characters like this `< />`. It is important to make sure that your tag is not left unclosed, in other words if the HTML is not working it may be because you forgot the `<` or `/>` character at the beginning or end of your tag.
2. In terms of design, don't go overboard!! Use HTML tags such as the `<blink>your text here</blink>` command sparingly since you don't want your user to be overwhelmed.
3. An HTML command begins with these characters`<your command here>` and must end with this set `</your command here>`. NOTE: The forward slash is very important in a closing tag because this indicates that your HTML command is "done" or in other words, no longer applies to the text behind it.
4. HTML is not case sensitive. `<P ALIGN="CENTER">` does the same as `<p align="center">`

What to type when you want to use HTML commands :

- To create a paragraph of text you must designate this with a tag at the beginning and end of your paragraph of text. HTML does not recognize hard returns or tabs. The text is presented in one block unless you designate otherwise with HTML commands. An example:

<code><P>Welcome to the world of HTML. This is the first paragraph. While short it is still a paragraph!</P></code>	Welcome to the world of HTML. This is the first paragraph. While short it is still a paragraph!
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A Web browser ignores the line breaks at the end of each sentence and starts a new paragraph only when it encounters a new `<P>` tag.

- Using the <P> and </P> as a paragraph "container" means that you can center a paragraph by including the ALIGN=*alignment* attribute in your HTML command.

<P ALIGN=CENTER> This is a centered paragraph. </P> [See the formatted version below.]

This is a centered paragraph.

It is also possible to align a paragraph to the right instead, by including the <p align=right> attribute. If no ALIGN attribute is included, the paragraph will be left-aligned by default.

Some Other HTML Commands and Their Results

<p>To make an unnumbered, bulleted list,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Start with a begin list tag (for unnumbered list). 2.Enter the (list item) tag followed by the individual item; no closing tag is needed. 3.End the entire list with a closing list tag. 	
<pre> apples bananas grapefruit </pre>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • apples • bananas • grapefruit
<p>A numbered list (also called an ordered list, from which the tag name derives) is identical to an unnumbered list, except it uses instead of . The items are tagged using the same tag. See the following HTML code:</p>	
<pre> oranges peaches grapes </pre>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. oranges 2. peaches 3. grapes
<p>To change the color of selected text you can nest a word, phrase or sentence between two HTML tags. The text that follows the tag will appear in that color until you close the tag.</p>	
<p>To make colored text:</p> <pre> Your red text here. Your blue text here. Your green text here </pre> <p>NOTE: the words for color tags work with many color names (purple, orange, yellow, pink, teal, fuchsia), however to use a specific color you will need to use a hexadecimal number value.</p> <pre> Your dark purple text here. Your sky blue text here.</pre> <p>**Don't forget the quotation marks or your tag won't work!</p>	<p style="color: red;">Your red text here.</p> <p style="color: blue;">Your blue text here.</p> <p style="color: green;">Your green text here.</p> <p style="color: purple;">Your dark purple text here.</p> <p style="color: cyan;">Your sky blue text here.</p>

Other Miscellaneous Tags

<p>To create a line break, use the
 tag after the text you wish to break from to the next line.</p> <p>This is a sentence. This
 is another one.</p>	<p>This is a sentence. This is another one.</p>
<p>To create a horizontal line between strings of text, use the <hr> tag.</p> <p>This is the first line of text. <hr> This is the second line.</p>	<p>This is the first line of text.</p> <hr/> <p>This is the second line.</p>
<p>To increase the size of text, nest your text in between these tags. The plus size indicates larger text, the larger the number the larger the text.</p> <p>This text is much bigger.</p> <p>This text is much smaller.</p> <p>**Don't forget the quotation marks or your tag won't work!</p>	<p>This text is much bigger.</p> <p>This text is much smaller.</p>
<p>To create bold, italics, or underlined text use the following:</p> <p>This is an <u>underlined </u>word.</p> <p>This word is bolded.</p> <p>This is in <i>italics</i>.</p>	<p>This is an <u>underlined</u> word.</p> <p>This word is bolded.</p> <p>This is in <i>italics</i>.</p>