

Formatting and Structure

Now that you know what a basic HTML page looks like, it's time to put some text in and see it all come together. So, load up your text editor and type the structure we looked at before into a blank page. Then add some text into the body of the page. It can be about whatever you like - format it as you would if you were typing into Word. Afterwards, you should have a page basically resembling this:

```
<html>
  <head>
    <title>My First Web Page</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    Welcome to my first Web page!
```

```
    The purpose of this Web page is to learn some HTML so
    that perhaps I can make a really fantastic Web page
    later on.
```

```
    Please come back and visit soon,
    James
  </body>
</html>
```

Now, save the file as "webpage.html" or something similar. Then double-click on the file in Windows Explorer – it'll open your chosen browser, probably Internet Explorer. But, rather than the nicely-formed, well-paragraphed text you typed earlier, all of the text will display on a single line. This is because HTML takes no notice of formatting within the code itself. You can get past this problem with some more HTML tags, namely these:

- `<p>` This tag creates a paragraph of text, leaving a blank line before it.
- `
` This is the line break tag - it starts a new line. This is our first example of a tag that doesn't need a closing tag (i.e. there is no such thing as a `</br>` tag).

So, with the tags applied, your page should look something like this:

```
<html>
  <head>
    <title>My First Web Page</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    <p>
      Welcome to my first web page!
    </p>
    <p>
      The purpose of this web page is to learn some HTML so
that
      perhaps I can make a really fantastic web page
      later on.
    </p>
    <p>
      Please come back and visit soon,
      <br>
      James
    </p>
  </body>
</html>
```

Now, there are a few things you've probably spotted there. I've included both `<p>` and `</p>` tags to signify the start and end of the paragraphs. While this isn't completely necessary, it is good practice to do so and means you will be fully compliant with future HTML standards. I've also indented the code for neatness, again something that certainly isn't necessary but I always do it to make the code easier to read and modify.

Now you know how to construct a basic HTML page, how to add in line breaks, and which tags are required to create a normal Web page. The next step is to look at using different fonts and font sizes, as well as formatting the color of text in your pages.