What Goes in Your HTML File?

What's with the indents?

HTML files can be difficult for a human to read. We combat this with widely used style conventions, like indentations. In the head, the meta and title tags get their own lines, and each is indented past the head tags. While unnecessary, this makes it easy to read each line and see that the meta and title tags are a part of the head section. Much less confusing for you and anyone else reading along!

Remember to save your file as .html or .htm

<!DOCTYPE html>

Once upon a time, this changed sometimes and really mattered. Now, it's just something we have to do to make sure everything works. Put it at the top and don't worry about it.

<html></html>

These should go around everything else—they just say that everything in between is in HTML.

<head></head>

The head is where all the information that isn't part of the webpage itself goes. For instance:

<meta charset="utf-8">

A tag you don't have to close! Meta tags provide information about the page itself which the user never sees. In this case, we're defining the character set as UTF-8, the universal character set. It can handle text in just about any alphabet and language, so you can always use this.

<title></title>

This is what gets displayed on the tab in your browser when you open your file.

<body></body>

Where everything on your page goes—go wild and have fun!

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