

Introduction

The World Wide Web is an exciting new medium, bringing information, images, advertising & what not to every desktop.

Do you know that everything that you see on the *Web* is documents written in a special language called **HTML** or **Hypertext Markup Language**.

This language tells the browsers like *Mosaic* or *Netscape* or *Internet Explorer* how to display text, picture & links on the screen.

This chapter will present to you the basics of HTML by showing to you the original HTML source code and its output on your browser. So, let's not waste time and straightaway get to the point.

HTML & its Capabilities

Before we actually start learning & writing HTML codes, we must know what it is and what it can do along with its limitations.

HTML is a document-layout & hyperlink – specification language i.e., a language used to design the layout of a document and to specify the hyperlinks.

HTML tells the browser how to display the contents of a hypertext document i.e., a document including text, images & other support media. The language also tells how to make a document interactive through special hyperlinks.

Though HTML is a language that supports multimedia and new page layout features yet it has its limitations.

HTML is **not a word processing tool**; it is not a desktop publishing solution or even a **programming language**. It is just a **page-layout** and **hyperlink specification language**.

History of HTML

Tim Berners-Lee, a *physicist* at CERN (the European Organization for Nuclear Research), devised a way in the late 80's and early 90's to share documents over the Internet. Before that, Internet Communication had been limited to plain text, using technologies such as **e-mail**,

FTP (File Transfer Protocol), and Usenet-based discussion boards. This was in the form of a markup language called **HTML** (Hyper Text Markup Language).

For its **first five years (1990-1995)**, HTML went through a number of revisions and experienced a number of extensions.

Then **HTML 3.02 & HTML 4.01** versions were released in late 90's. Current approved standard of HTML is HTML 5, which was released in 2012.

Writing HTML documents

HTML is made up of *element* or *Tags* and *attributes*, which work together to identify document parts and tell browsers how to display them.

All HTML tags are contained with the angle brackets(<>) e.g., <HTML> is a tag.

Similarly, <H1> is a tag. Please note that you can write in capital letters as well as in small letters. A browser treats both of them in the same manner. However, throughout this chapter and the coming

chapters of HTML, we shall be using capitals for HTML tags to make them stand out from the rest of the text.

HTML document structure

An HTML document consists of text, which comprises the content of the document, and tags, which define the structure and appearance of the document is simple with entire document bound by a pair of `<HTML>` and `</HTML>` tags.

Every HTML document should follow this general from:

```
<HTML>
```

```
<HEAD>
```

```
<TITLE> Title of Page is written here</TITLE>
```

```
</HEAD>
```

```
<BODY>
```

```
The html tags that define your page go here
```

```
</BODY>
```

```
</HTML>
```

The `<HEAD>.....</HEAD>` tags make the header of the document and `<BODY>.....</BODY>` tags make the body of the HTML document. **Header** ---that appears on the top of the window and **Body**—that appears in the windows.

The `<HTML>` tag

The `<HTML>` tag identifies the document as an HTML document. An HTML document begins with `<HTML>` and ends with `</HTML>`. Here `<HTML>` starts the HTML tag and `</HTML>` ends the HTML tag.

```
<HTML>
.....HTML document lines here
</HTML>
```

NOTE

The `<HEAD>` tag

The `<HEAD>` tag contains information about the document,

HTML is not case sensitive, i.e. HTML tags can be written in capital as well as small letters e.g., `<HEAD>`, `<head>` or `<Head>` etc. are same in

including its title, scripts used, style definitions, & document descriptions. The <HEAD> tag, is entered between <HTML> tags.

For example:-

```
<HTML>
<HEAD>
.....HEAD information comes here
</HEAD></HTML>
```

The <TITLE> tag

This tag contains the document title. The title specified inside <TITLE> tag appears on the browser's title bar.

The <TITLE> tag is entered between the opening and closing <HEAD> tags, e.g.,

```
<HTML>
<HEAD>
<TITLE>Document title here
</TITLE>
</HEAD></HTML>
```

The <BODY> tag

The <BODY> tag encloses all the tags, attributes and information to be displayed in the web page. The <BODY> tag is entered below the closing </HEAD> tag and above the closing <HTML> tag as shown below:

```
<HTML>
<HEAD>
<TITLE>Document title here
</TITLE>
</HEAD>
<BODY>
All the tags, attributes and information in the
document body go here
</BODY>
</HTML>
```

HTML Writing Tools

As for making and testing your documents, the easiest way to do this is to create and view them on your personal computer. This may be done using an HTML

editor like **FrontPage** or **FrontPage Express**, but I prefer to use a text processor like **Notepad** and a web browser like **Mozilla Firefox** or **Google chrome** etc.

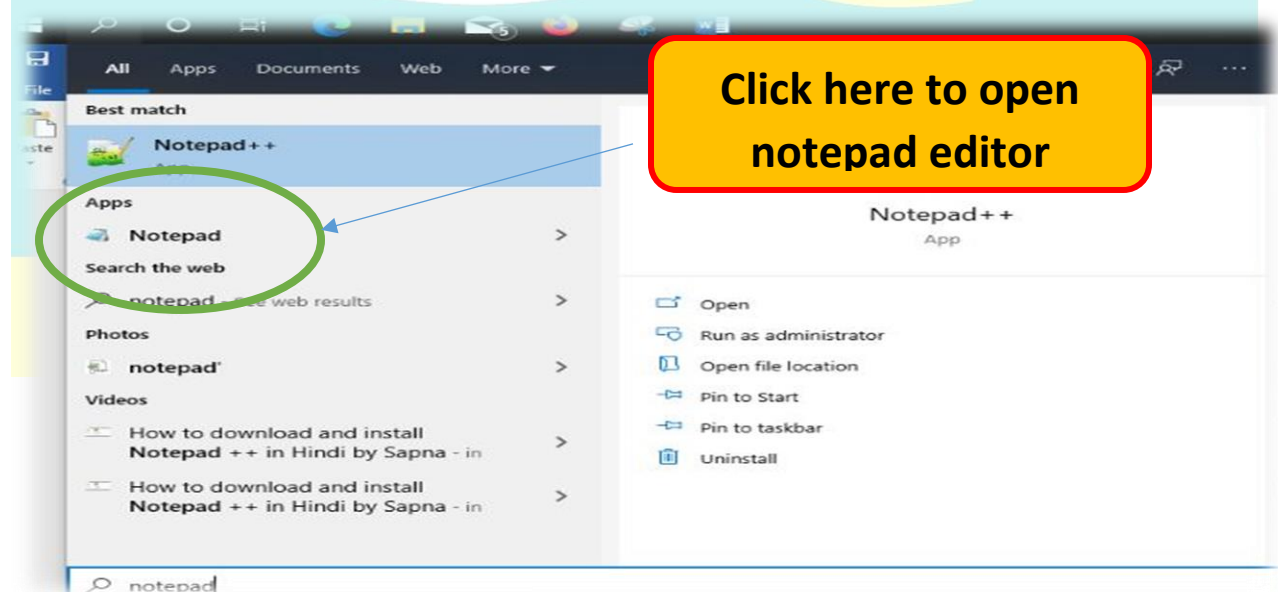
The following lines explain how can you create HTML document and view them in a browser.

Creating an HTML document

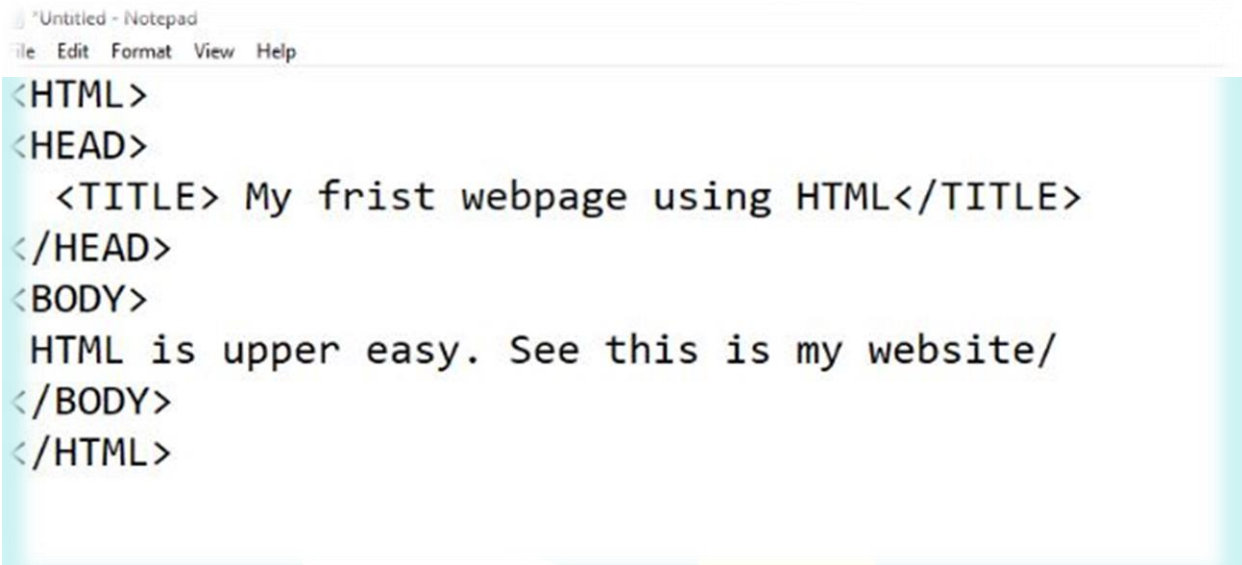
To create an HTML document using a text editor, follow the steps given below.

Please note that you can use any text editor that lets you create plain text files. For illustration purposes, we are using the **Notepad** text editor.

Step 1:- Open text editor by clicking at the **Start button** → **All programs** then on **Accessories** and then on **Notepad**.



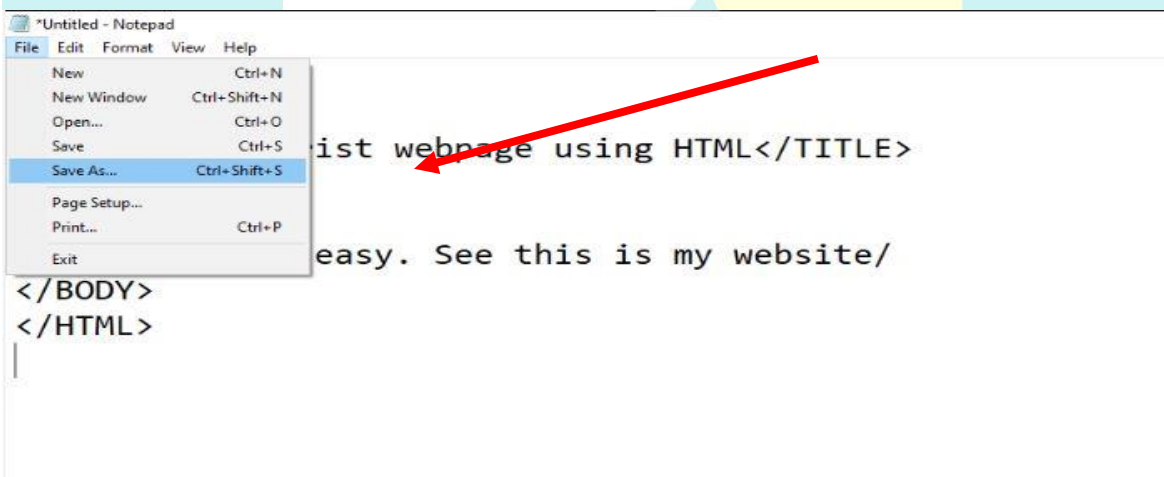
Step 2:- Now the *Notepad window* appears. Type the HTML code here.

A screenshot of a Notepad window titled '*Untitled - Notepad'. The menu bar includes 'File', 'Edit', 'Format', 'View', and 'Help'. The text area contains the following HTML code:

```
<HTML>
<HEAD>
  <TITLE> My frist webpage using HTML</TITLE>
</HEAD>
<BODY>
  HTML is upper easy. See this is my website/
</BODY>
</HTML>
```

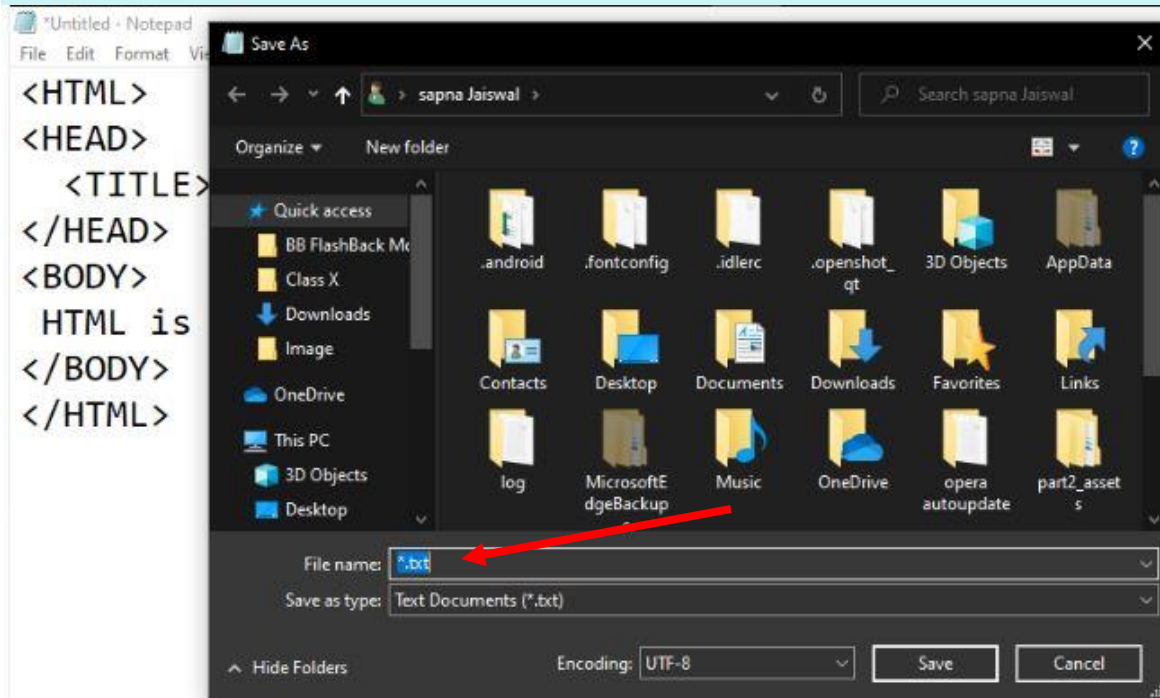
Step 3:- Next you need to save the files with .HTML extension. To do this:

a) In notepad , click **File** → **Save as....** Command.

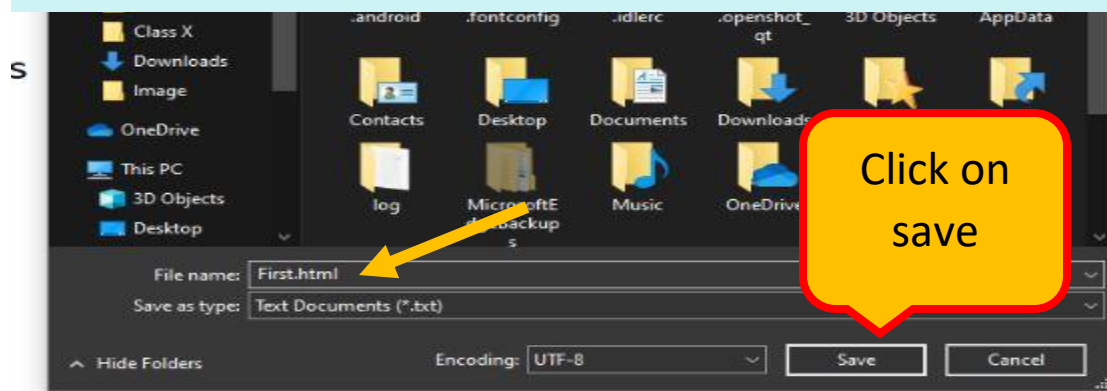
A screenshot of a Notepad window titled '*Untitled - Notepad'. The 'File' menu is open, showing options: 'New', 'New Window', 'Open...', 'Save', 'Save As...', 'Page Setup...', 'Print...', and 'Exit'. The 'Save As...' option is highlighted in blue. A red arrow points from the 'Save As...' option to the text area of the Notepad window. The text area contains the following HTML code:

```
ist webpage using HTML</TITLE>
easy. See this is my website/
</BODY>
</HTML>
```

b) Choose **“All files”** in the **“Save as type”** box. This is very important ---- otherwise, you save it as a text document (with.txt extension) and not as an HTML document.



c) Now give name to your HTML document with .html extension, e.g, we are giving it name as **First.html**. Type this name under **File name:** box.

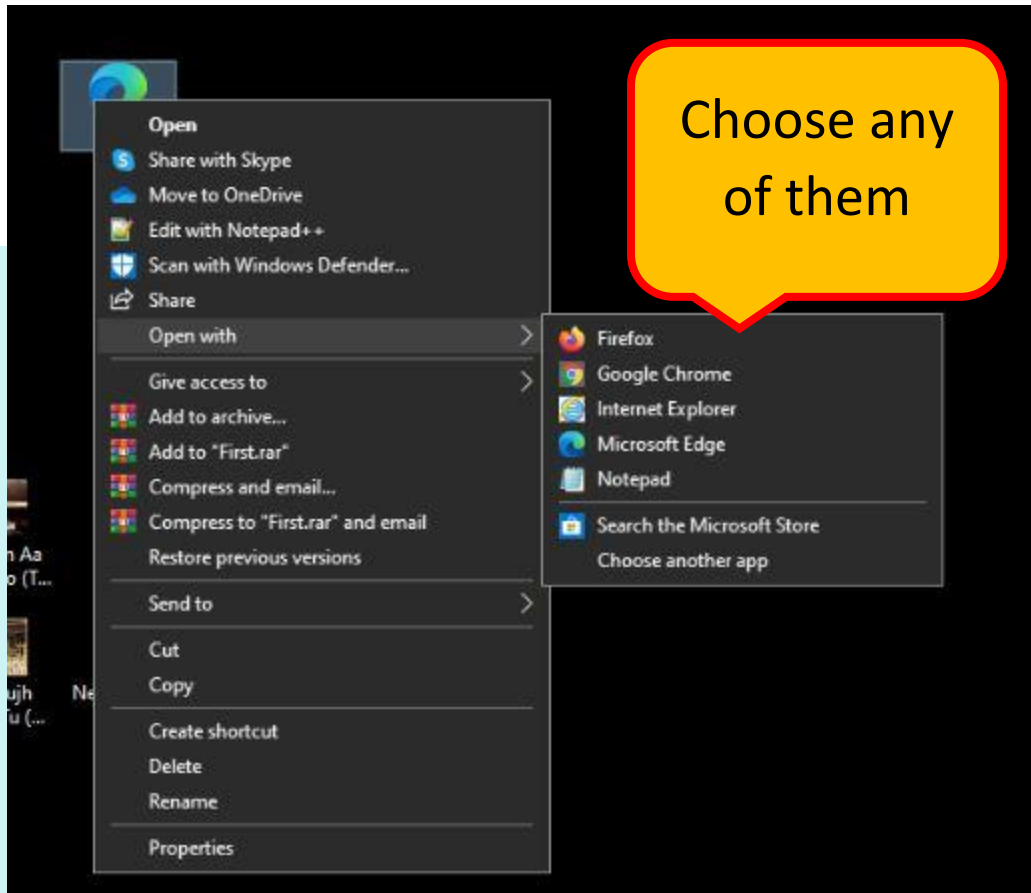


d) Click on **Save** button at the bottom of *Save as* dialog to save the file.

Viewing HTML Document in a Browser

To view an HTML document in a browser, follow these steps:

1. Open the browser window. Open any of your favorite browser like Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome etc.
2. Press **Ctrl + O** or if you can see the top menu bar you may even click on **File → Open** command.



3. *File Open dialog* will open. Now find your HTML document and click **Open** button at the bottom.

4. The browser will show the webpage created by you.

This is the Title
which is given
in TITLE tag

This is the
text

