

HTML HYPERTEXT LINKS

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Introduction to Hypertext links

Links are the slick part of hypertext - click on a highlighted word or phrase to jump to another external web page anywhere in the world, or to another internal web page.

The example below uses internal links to navigate to other web pages stored locally. within a document. Links to other local documents, and finally links to other Web pages which may be stored anywhere in the world. Of course to use the latter, you will need access to the Internet.

You must take some care when using hypertext links if your documents are not to become a bowl of spaghetti. Information needs to be structured with some care.

Be wary of incorporating external references you have no control over. If the external site is updated, your link may be broken.

The browser will normally underline and change the text color of the enclosed text. For this reason its generally not a good idea to underline text in a web page, as it may be confused with a hypertext link.

For this reason the example links on this page are **not underlined.**

You can change the default colours of hypertext links by changing the <BODY> tag to include <BODY VLINK = "green" ALINK="red" > for example. VLINK defines the colour before a link has been clicked while ALINK defines the color after a link has been clicked

Ex - Internal (or local) Hypertext links

Internal hypertext links take the form Images which means the web page called Ex5.htm is in the same folder as the current page. Internal links should be created using **relative addresses** i.e. starting *./* (meaning from this folder) or *../* (go to the parent folder).

All the pages in this example are in the same folder as the current page.

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If the web page Ex5.htm was in a sub folder the the link would be , meaning go to the sub folder contained in this folder where you will find Ex5.htm.

the parent folder of a large site might be divided into a number of sub folders. To navigate to another folder within the parent, you would use a link link this meaning, go to the parent folder where you will find another folder which contains Ex5.htm

HTML code example

```
17 <BODY bgcolor="#a7daff">
18 <!-- this is an HTML comment and doesn't print -->
19 <h3>Contents</h3>
20 <ol>
21 <li><a href="./Ex1.htm">Headings</a></li>
22 <li><a href="./Ex2.htm">Formatting</a></li>
23 <li><a href="./Ex3.htm">Images</a></li>
24 <li><a href="./Ex4.htm">Forms</a></li>
25 <li><a href="./Ex5.htm">Ordered Lists</a></li>
26 <li><a href="./Ex6.htm">More on Lists</a></li>
27 <li><a href="./Ex7.htm">Tables</a></li>
28 <li><a href="./Ex8.htm">Framesets</a></li>
29 <li><a href="./Ex9.htm">Dividers</a></li>
30 <li><a href="./Ex10.htm">Hypertext links</a></li>
31 </ol>
32 </BODY>
33 </HTML>
```

A hypertext link can also enclose an image. For example this page could be broken up into a series of separate pages which are to be read in sequence. One trick is to use an image of a button for the reader to click on e.g.

 and

External Links

An external link to a page on another web site works in exactly the same way as the links illustrated above. The only difference is you must provide an absolute address (or URL) to the remote site instead of a relative address, which you would use for internal (or local) links. E.g

External site

Here are some real life examples (provided they are not broken!. You will need access to the internet to try them out. Click [W3schools.com HTML tutorial](http://www.W3schools.com/HTML/tutorial) to go to an external (Web) site for another example of the HTML

language. or Dave Raggett's introduction to HTML on the [W3.org website](http://www.w3.org). You will of course have to use the back button on your browser to get back here.

[Anchor tags](#)

By default a hypertext link will replace the current document and will open at the top of the new web page. If you want to jump directly to a specific section within a web page, then you must use an anchor tag. Instead of breaking a very long document up, you may opt to use anchor tags. By placing an index at the start of a page, a user can jump directly to the section they are interested in.

Anchor tags are usually associated with section heading and take the form

Then to jump within a page to this anchor you would use a hypertext text like this

```
<A href="#anchorName">jump to anchorName</a>
```

To jump to a specific anchor on another page, then you would combine the hypertext link with the anchor name, E.g

```
<A href="/anotherPage.htm#anchorName">jump to anchor name on another page</a>
```

Usually the anchor tag does not enclose any text and is therefore hidden. You can however include text, or an image and combine an anchor tag with a hypertext link. For example at the top of this page is an anchor tag called *top*. I could include some text like

```
<A href="#top" name="anchor" id="anchor">back to top</A> or an image which indicates the same thing
```

```
<A href="#top"> </A>
```

The section heading above called Anchor tags combines both an anchor, for the index and a return hypertext link to the top of the page. Try it and see! I've deliberately left the other headings without return links so you can

- a. See what a pain it is scrolling through a lengthy document.
- b. Appreciate the value of anchors if you must create long pages.

By default the browser will put a border around the image. If you don't want this set the border property of the image to zero.