

A Brain-Friendly Guide to HTML & CSS

Head First HTML with CSS & XHTML

Launch your Web
career in one
chapter



**A learner's guide
to creating
standards-based
Web pages**



Watch out for
common HTML & CSS
traps and pitfalls



Learn why everything
your friends know about
style is probably wrong

Bend your mind
around 100 puzzles
& exercises



Avoid
embarrassing
validation mistakes



Elisabeth Freeman & Eric Freeman



Index

Symbols

& 114
> 114
< 114
.. 64, 65
<a> 48, 152
<address> 116
<blockquote> 90
<body> 23

 98
<code> 116
<dd> 108
 377
<dl> 108
<dt> 108
<fieldset> 632
<form> 594, 596
<h1> 22, 25, 82
<h2> 22, 82
<head> 23
<hr> 116
<html> 23
 47, 82, 173
<input> 598
<ins> 377
<label> 632
<legend> 632
 104
<meta> 240
 105
<option> 601
<p> 22, 82
<pre> 116
<q> 86
<select> 601
 116
<style> 29

<table> 551, 554
<td> 554
<textarea> 600
<th> 554
<title> 23
<tr> 554
 105
404 Error 137

A

absolute path 136, 138–139
accessibility 149, 159, 176, 251, 255, 270, 355, 479, 558, 632
Adobe GoLive 643
Adobe Photoshop Elements 184
anchor 155
anti-aliasing 213
attributes 158. *See also* elements
 action 596, 605
 alt 176
 colspan 571
 content 240
 height 177
 href 48–49
 interview with 53
 http-equiv 240
 id 152, 416–419
 media 649
 method 594, 605
 GET versus POST 620–621
 onsubmit 645
 rel 305
 rowspan 569
 target 158–159
 downsides 159
 title 149
 width 177

B

background image 404–407
 Bean Machine 602
 Behind the Scenes 48, 167
 Be the Browser 112, 327, 490, 556, 618, 634
 Blogger.com 650
 Blogs 650
 borders. *See* the border property
 box model 391–395
 margin 396, 401–403
 padding 396, 401–403
 widths 444–445
 Brain Power 9, 46, 65, 103, 105, 158, 225, 237, 267, 290,
 293, 398, 415, 435, 439, 443, 462, 467, 481, 551,
 575, 576, 612, 623
 browsers
 Firefox 16
 Internet Explorer 16
 Opera 16
 Safari 16
 browser wars 226
 Bullet Points 36, 69, 117, 161, 214, 261, 331, 379, 424,
 482, 542, 581
 Burma Shave 108

C

Caffeine Buzz 144
 Cascading Style Sheets 32, 285
 and XHTML 289
 cascade 473–480
 brief description 322
 class 318, 320
 color 366–368
 hex codes 369–371
 external 303–305
 flow 489
 and margins 493
 floating elements 495–496
 inline elements 491
 the clear property 511
 width 495–496
 for print 423
 for various media 422–423
 inheritance 311–312
 overriding 314
 language 289
 multiple 420–421
 properties. *See* properties
 rule 289, 296
 syntax 289
 selectors 294, 297, 300
 attribute 640
 child 454
 class 318
 combining complex 640
 descendant 453
 element 297
 group 297
 id 417
 multiple 322
 pseudo-class 469
 pseudo-element 640
 sibling 640
 shorthand 458–461
 specificity 476
 validation 329
 character encoding 239
 ISO-8859-1 240
 character entity 114–115
 closing tag 25
 color 364
 color charts 373
 hex codes 369
 shortcuts 373
 red, green blue 364–365
 Web colors 372
 colspan 571
 comments
 HTML 6
 compliance 230
 Crossword Puzzle 37, 72, 118, 160, 215, 262, 283, 332,
 380, 425, 543, 582
 CSS. *See* Cascading Style Sheets
 cubicle conversation 224, 233, 248, 266, 432, 451, 463

D

- default pages 141
- Design
 - Jello 518
 - Liquid and Frozen 517
 - outline 81
 - sketch 80, 81
 - three-column 541
 - two-column 503
- destination anchors 152–155
- DOCTYPE 229, 245, 246. *See also* Document type definition
- Document type definition 229, 245
 - adding 231
- domain name 128–129
- Dreamweaver 16, 134, 643
- DTD 229

E

- Earl's Autos 138
- elements 25
 - a 47–49, 144
 - best practices 150
 - destination anchors 152–155
 - styling 468
 - title 149
 - address 116
 - attributes 29
 - defined 51–53
 - syntax 51
 - block 94
 - blockquote 91–94
 - body 23
 - br 98–101
 - caption 557
 - checkboxes 607
 - closing tag 25–26
 - code 116
 - defined 25
 - div 432
 - and classes 437
 - for logical division 434
 - labelling 434

- nesting 436
 - ordering 513
 - styling 440
- dl 108
- dt 108
- em 116
- embed 643
- empty 100–101
- fieldset 632
- form
 - action attribute 596, 604
 - how it works 592–593
 - input elements 598–601
 - method
 - post 605
 - method attribute 596, 605
 - post 596
 - styling 630
- h1 23
- h2 23
- head 23
- hr 116
- href 144
- html 23
- img 166–169, 173
 - and the <a> element 202
 - and the alt attribute 176
 - and URLs 174
 - height attribute 177
 - how it works 167–169
 - loading 175
 - sizes 182
 - width attribute 177
- inline 94
- input 598–601, 605, 606
 - checkbox 599, 615
 - file 633
 - radio 599, 613
 - submit 598, 607
 - text 598
- label 632
- li 104
 - marker 579
 - styling 578–580
- link 305, 648
- matching tags 25–26

- meta 647
- nesting 109
- object 643
- ol 105
- opening tag 25–26
- option 601, 607, 633
- p 23
- passwords 633
- pre 116
- q 86
- quote. *See* q, blockquote
- root element 110
- select 601, 610–611
 - using multiple selection 633
- span 463–465
- strong 116
- style 29, 291
- summary 557
- table 552
 - collapsing borders 564
 - dissected 554
 - nesting 573–574
 - padding and borders 562
 - row and column spans 569–571
 - styling 560, 576
- td 552
- textarea 599, 615
 - versus text input 607
- th 552
- tr 552
- ul 116

elixirs 430

Emacs 643

empty elements 100–101

entity 114–115

eXtensible HTML 227, 266

- compared to HTML 268–269
- DOCTYPE 274
- empty elements 275
- migrating from HTML 272
- namespace 274
- uses 270–271
- validation 277
- versus HTML 282
- XML 267

F

file transfer protocol 132–134

Firefox 16

Fireside Chat

- CSS & XHTML compare languages 324
- Float and Absolute discuss who's more appropriate for layout 530
- HTML and CSS on content and style 34
- HTML and XHTML ask for your support 280
- Inline and Block air their differences 96
- JPEG and GIF compare their images 170
- Table and CSS spar over how to style forms 624

Five Minute Mystery

- The Case of Brute Force versus Style 302, 308
- The Case of Relatives and Absolutes 148, 156
- The Case of the Elements Separated at Birth 89, 93

flash 643

folders

- organization 56–57
- parent 63
- relative paths 59–64
- subfolder 60
- trees 56

font 358

- sizes. *See* font-size property
- style. *See* the font-style property
- weight. *See* the font-weight property

font-family 344–347, 350

- dealing with browsers 351

font-size 352, 354–355, 358

- sizes 352–354

font-style 361

font-weight 359

fonts

- serif versus sans-serif 350

forms. *See* the <form> element

frames 642

- doctype 642

FrontPage 16

FTP. *See* file transfer protocol

G

- GET 620
- GIF 206
 - versus JPEG 170–171, 175, 192
- GoLive 16, 134, 643

H

- Head First learning principles xxviii
- Head First Lounge 4, 44, 231, 237, 246, 268, 291, 386, 430, 488, 497
- hosting company 126–127
- HTML. *See* HyperText Markup Language
 - Guide to Strict HTML 4.01 252–254
 - head and body 23
- http. *See* Hypertext Transfer Protocol
- HyperText Markup Language
 - 4.01 227
 - comments 6
 - compliance 230
 - definition 6
 - deprecated 259
 - elements. *See* elements
 - History 226
 - Standard 230
 - strict 243–246, 252–255
 - guide to 4.01 253
 - proper nesting 253–255
 - transitional 230
 - validation 234
 - character encoding 239
 - versus XHTML 282
- Hypertext Transfer Protocol 136–137

I

- images. *See also* the `img` element
 - and the `<a>` element 203
 - anti-aliasing 213
 - GIF 169
 - JPEG 169
 - loading in a Web page 175
 - matte color 209

- quality 190
- resizing 186–189
- thumbnails 195–198
- transparency 207
- URL 175
- inheritance 311
- Internet Explorer 16
- Interviews
 - Are classes always right? 414
 - Confessions of the href attribute 53
 - Getting to know the pseudo-class 470
 - Using target considered bad? 159
 - Why do you care which version of HTML you're displaying? 228
- ISO-8859-1 240

J

- Java 646
- JavaScript 645
- Java Server Pages 646
- JPEG 169, 189
 - quality 190
 - versus GIF 170–171, 175, 192

L

- linebreak 94–95
- link. *See* the “a” attribute
- lists 103–105, 108. *See also* elements, li, ul, ol
 - styling 577–580
- logical division. *See* logical section
- logical section 433–437. *See also* elements, div Lounge, Head First. *See* Head First Lounge

M

- Macintosh
 - creating text files 12
 - dock 12
 - TextEdit 12
- Markup
 - elements dissected 25
- Markup Magnets 21, 298, 603, 635

P-W

matching tags 25, 26, 111
matte 207
 option in Photoshop Elements 208
 setting the color 209
Microsoft FrontPage 643
multimedia 643
myPod 178
MySQL 646

N

nested lists 108–110
nesting 109
Notepad 14

O

opening pages
 browser 19
opening tag 25
Opera 16

P

page ranking 647
parent 63, 65
Perl 646
Photoshop Elements. *See* Adobe Photoshop Elements
PHP 141, 646
pixels 182
plain text 12
PNG 175
port 147
positioning
 absolute 520–522, 532
 versus float 530–531
 fixed 535–537
 relative 539–540
 z-index 521–522
POST 620
properties 289–290
 background-color 289, 330, 367–368
 background-image 330, 404–407
 border 289, 396, 410–411

border-bottom 295, 378
bottom 532
clear 511
color 292, 343
float 488, 495–496
font-family 342
 dealing with browsers 351
font-size 342–345
 keywords 354–355
 percent and em 358
 pixels 358
font-style 330, 361
 styles 361
font-weight 330, 343, 359–360
font family 344–347
left 330, 521
letter-spacing 330
line-height 330, 389–390
list-style 330
margin 330, 396
padding 396
position 520. *See also* positioning
right 520
shorthand 458–461
text-align 330
 and images 449
text-decoration 343, 375, 377
top 330, 520, 521
property 289
protocol 136
 file 147
pseudo-classes 469, 469–471
Python 646

Q

Quicktime 643
quirks mode 228–229

R

relative path 59
relative paths 147
resizing images 186–188
root element 110

root folder 131
 rowspan 569
 Ruby 646
 Ruby on Rails 646

S

Safari 16
 sans-serif 309
 saving your work 18
 scripting 645
 search engines 647
 Segway 78
 selectors 294, 297, 300, 318, 322, 453, 469, 640–641.
 See also Cascading Style Sheets
 serif 309
 server-side scripting 646
 Servlets 646
 Sharpen your pencil 7, 10, 79, 106, 180, 301, 310, 319,
 356, 359, 398, 446, 450, 466, 472, 508, 533, 563,
 565
 shorthands 458–461
 span 462–467. *See also* elements, span
 specificity 322, 475–480. *See also* Cascading Style
 Sheets
 Starbuzz Coffee 9, 126, 144, 499, 602
 structure 5, 87
 style sheets. *See* Cascading Style Sheets

T

tables. *See also* elements, table
 for presentation 555, 624
 Tags 5
 meta 240
 tags dissected 25
 target 158
 TextEdit 12
 Preferences 13
 saving 18
 The Internet 2

There are no Dumb Questions 6, 16, 57, 92, 108, 115,
 129, 131, 134, 155, 158, 175, 177, 190, 203, 213,
 230, 240, 251, 255, 276, 277, 290, 297, 315, 329,
 350, 358, 362, 373, 377, 396, 419, 421, 437, 446,
 454, 461, 466, 469, 479, 494, 512, 522, 555, 563,
 571, 580, 607, 621
 three-column layout 541
 thumbnails 196
 Tony's journal 79, 278, 348, 550
 transparency 205. *See also* GIF

U

Uniform Resource Locator 136, 147
 absolute path 136
 default pages 141
 http 137
 port 147
 protocols 136, 147
 URL. *See* Uniform Resource Locator

V

validation 233–236, 238, 242, 247, 250. *See also* Hyper-
 text Markup Language, Cascading Style Sheets,
 eXtensible HTML

W

W3C 233, 234
 Watch it! 86, 355, 412, 532, 535
 Web browser 3
 Weblogs 650
 Web page 2
 Web server 3
 Webville Guide to Strict HTML 4.01 252–254
 Who Does What? 32, 113, 570
 Windows
 creating text files 14
 file extensions 15
 Notepad 14

X-Z

X

XHTML 227, 268–269. *See also* eXtensible HTML
checklist 272
uses 270
versus HTML 280–282
XML 267

Z

z-index 521–522, 529. *See also* positioning