What is HTML
What is HTML **Coding by hand** **Naming an HTML file**

HTML (**hyper text mark-up language**) is code or *mark-up* that creates web pages. HTML is not a programming or scripting language. *Browsers* (software for browsing the internet, e.g. Internet Explorer or Firefox) can read HTML and convert the code into what we understand is a web page.

HTML is a text based language that can be easily learnt and written with a basic text editor such as Notepad. It works by placing *elements,* such as an image or paragraph, on the page. It can also give elements an *attribute,* such as size or link.

HTML is written as *tags* that are characterised by angled brackets **<>**. For instance a paragraph tag is written like so: **<p>**.

Most HTML tags come in pairs; opening and closing tags. One tag starts or opens the element and one tag closes the element. The closing tag is like the opening tag but is preceded by the forward slash /. For instance the closing paragraph tag is </p>. In the code the paragraph would look like this:

```
<p>Hello, I am some text in a paragraph</p>
```

Basic tags
The essential tags for all web pages are:

<html>	• *This states the beginning of the html document*
<head>	• *The head is not the visible part of the web page but contains elements relevant to the page*
<title>My Web Page**</title>**	• *The title is an element in the head of the document. It does not appear on the web page but will appear in the title bar of the browser and in history and favourites/bookmarks.*
</head>	• *This closes the head section*
<body>	• *This presents the visible part of the web page. All visible content is placed between the body tags*
Welcome to my web site	
</body>	• *End of the body*
</html>	• *End of the html document*

Coding by hand
A web page can be created with basic technology. Essentially all one needs is a browser and a simple text editor e.g. Notepad (*not* Word, as this generates its own html code). There are also free applications specifically made for editing code such as Komodo, Text Wrangler and Notepad++. Dreamweaver is an application for which the license needs to be purchased and has extended editing and site management facilities.

How it is done:
Open your text editor and insert the basic code as illustrated on the previous page (this may not be necessary if the editor automatically enters the code). Next, put in some content between the body tags. This could just simply be typing a message.

Once this is done the results need to be viewed in the browser. In order for the browser to read the html the text file needs to be saved and given the correct file extension.

Naming an HTML file
The name of an HTML file can be anything you like and any combination of letters and numbers (short names are easier to work with). It is preferable to use lower case letters and there must be no spaces. If you require a space in the name then the convention is to use a hyphen. e.g. *filename-1.*

*The file name needs a **file extension***. It is this that will make the file recognised by the browser. In this case the file extension is **.htm** or **.html**. Either one can be used but for convenience use one method and do not mix them up. Notice that the letters are preceded by a dot (full stop). It is this dot that says the following letters denote a file extension. If this dot is omitted then the file will not be recognised and therefore will not be visible in the browser.

The final result should look something like this:
<div align="center">

filename.html
not:
file name.html
filename .html
filenamehtml

</div>

As mentioned above, an HTML file can be called anything you like. There is an exception to this though. General practice has it that the file name of the first or introductory page of your web site is named thus: ***index.html*** or ***default.html***

The reason for this is that when looking for a web site, a user need only enter the domain name (web site address) for the site without need for specifying a particular web page. For instance, *mywebsite.com* and not *mywebsite.com/index.html.* The first page displayed will automatically be the one with the file name *index*. This helps to make life easy when surfing the net and keeps web addresses simple.

If the file name of the first page of your web site is not index or default but something like *first-page.html*, for instance, then this page will not be found

automatically. You will then need to add this file name to your web site address for it to appear.

Viewing your code in a browser:
After saving, the file can be opened in a browser. From the browser go to *File > Open* and look for your html document. Alternatively, open the file from where it was saved on the computer. Double click the file to open it or right click on the file and choose the programme to open it.

Web page 1 2 3
When making web pages in this way you will have two programmes open at once e.g. A browser and Notepad. It is easier if you do not close the programmes but use the Taskbar/Dock to pop one up and then the other.

Now you have viewed the results of your coding in the browser, you can go back to the code editor and make further changes. Next, you will need to view the changes in the browser. To do this the HTML needs to be saved (File – Save). The browser will not show the changes if the file is not saved. *You do not need to name or rename the file as this has already been done.* Finally, bring up the browser and click *Refresh* in the browser and the changes will update in the browser.

This is, quite simply, how web pages are made and when creating a web site. This process *does not change.*
It can be described like this:
1. **Make changes** (to HTML)
2. **Save**
3. **View in browser** (refresh)
Step three goes back to step one and so it goes on. Always view your work regularly in the browser.