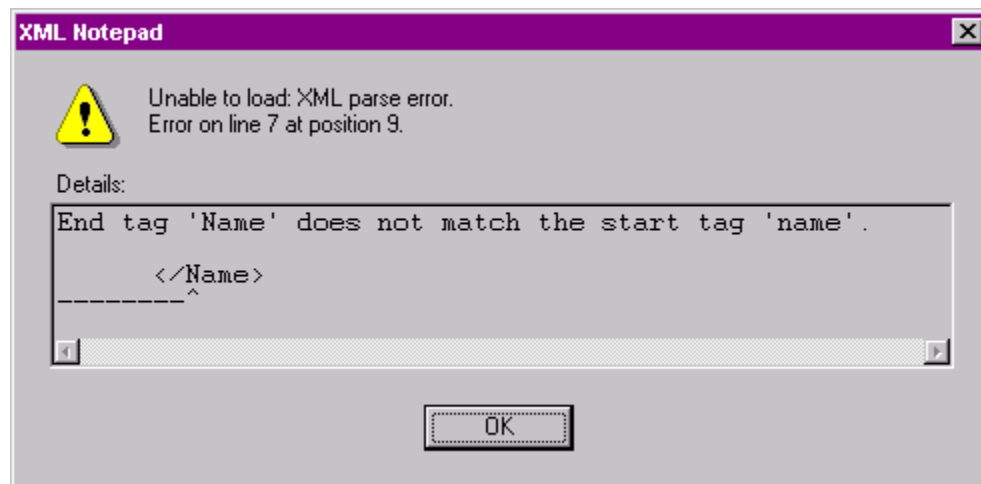## *Case Sensitivity*

XML is case sensitive, and this is a very important point for creating well-formed documents and for portability. What this means is that XML processors will distinguish upper case letters (A-Z) from lower case letters (a-z). For example, the following will result in an error because the start tag <name> and the end tag </Name> are not recognized as the same.
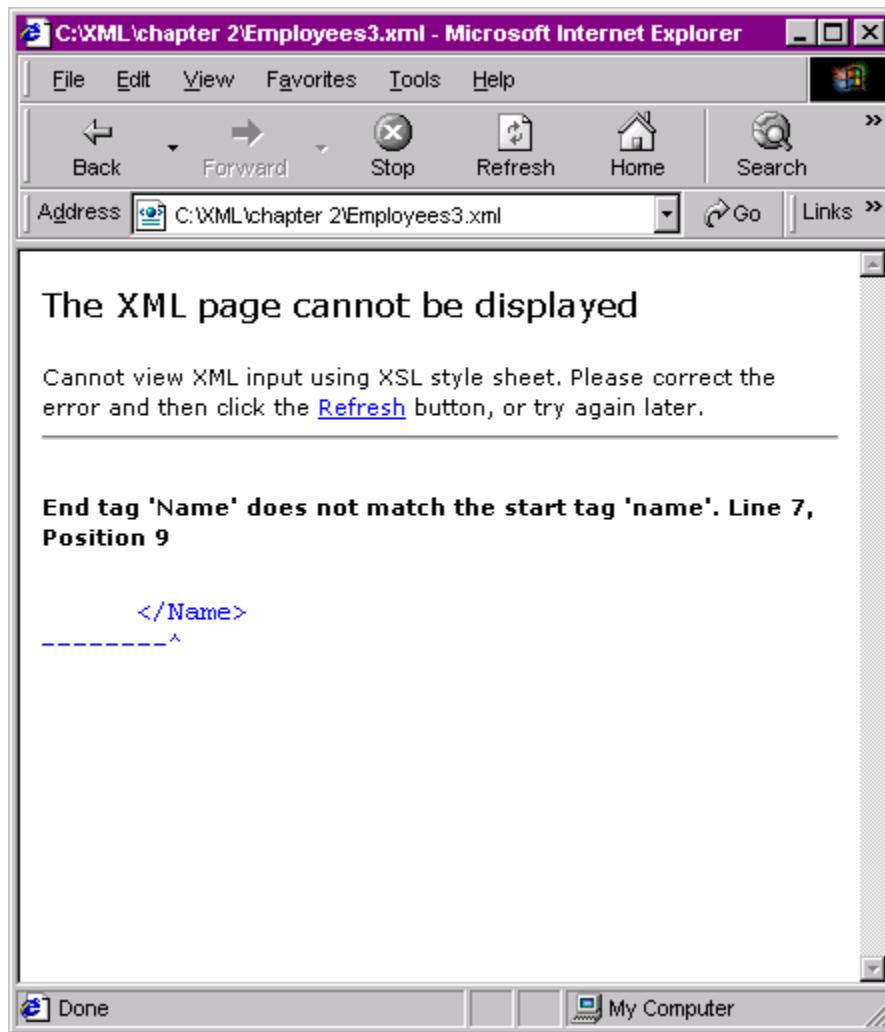
```
<name>
  <first>John</first>
  <last>Doe</last>
</Name>
```

File: Chapter 2\Employees3.htm code snippet

The above would result in an error regarding unmatched tags. The following screen captures show how both XML Notepad and IE5 react to the error.

File: Chapter 2\Employees3.htm in XML Notepad

File: Chapter 2\Employees3.htm in IE5

The reason that XML is case sensitive is very interesting. Most
ASCII based text systems will convert text into upper case so that
case-sensitivity is not an issue.

However, XML is a portable standard, and by portable we mean
language independent. This is the very reason why XML supports
Unicode, and not ASCII. This makes it impossible to do any
conversion with confidence since some character set conversions
may behave differently than expected. XML defaults to lower case.
It is recommended that you always use lower case as well.

Tip: Always use lowercase instead of mixed case. This results
in consistency throughout your code and makes it more portable