Paragraph

While word processors and text editors use a return character (and/or a line feed character, depending on computer platform), they are ignored in HTML, which uses the `<P>` element to designate a paragraph break.

In order to gain greater compatibity with SGML, in HTML 2.0 usage the `<P>` element becomes a container   (such as `<B>bold</B>`) through use of a closing `</P>` tag. While this is recommended usage, it is optional:

    <P>This is a paragraph.</P>   [recommended usage]

Note that `<P>` tags should designate the beginning of a paragraph, rather than an end, as in

    <P>This is a paragraph.   [acceptable usage]
not

    This is a paragraph.<P>   [deprecated usage]

Since HTML browsers ignore white space (simplifying it to a single space) or non-HTML line breaks, use `<BR>` to insert a line break (which retains the current HTML format) or `<P></P>` for a new paragraph.

Usage

HTML.edit uses the Option and Shift keys to modify entry of paragraph and line break tags, as shown in the following table:

Code	Description	Type this to insert:
` `	Line Break	Shift-Return
`<P>`	Paragraph	Option-Return
`<P></P>`	HTML 2.0 Paragraph	Shift-Option-Return

Note that checking the HTML 2.0 Returns checkbox on the Preferences card swaps usage of the `</P>` tag between Option-Return and Option-Shift-Return. This is also shown in the table on the Preferences card.

If upon pressing the keystroke to create a new HTML paragraph, the cursor precedes a `</P>` closing tag, HTML.edit senses this and creates a new paragraph, placing the insertion point appropriately in a new paragraph container.

Simply begin your first paragraph by typing Option-Return (which places the cursor within the paragraph container), then at the end of each paragraph, type Option-Return to begin a new paragraph.

Back to Footer, on to Limitations, or return to Design Issues.