

National Center for Supercomputing Applications  
A Beginner's Guide to HTML

## The Minimal HTML Document

Here is a bare-bones example of HTML:

```
<TITLE>The simplest HTML example</TITLE>
<H1>This is a level-one heading</H1>
Welcome to the world of HTML.
This is one paragraph.<P>
And this is a second.<P>
```

[Click here to see the formatted version of the example.](#)

HTML uses markup tags to tell the Web browser how to display the text. The above example uses:

- the `<TITLE>` tag (and corresponding `</TITLE>` tag), which specifies the title of the document
- the `<H1>` header tag (and corresponding `</H1>`)
- the `<P>` paragraph-separator tag

HTML tags consist of a left angle bracket (`<`), (a "less than" symbol to mathematicians), followed by name of the tag and closed by a right angular bracket (`>`). Tags are usually paired, e.g. `<H1>` and `</H1>`. The ending tag looks just like the starting tag except a slash (`/`) precedes the text within the brackets. In the example, `<H1>` tells the Web browser to start formatting a level-one heading; `</H1>` tells the browser that the heading is complete.

The primary exception to the pairing rule is the `<P>` tag. There is no such thing as `</P>`.

NOTE: HTML is not case sensitive. `<title>` is equivalent to `<TITLE>` or `<Title>`.

Not all tags are supported by all World Wide Web browsers. If a browser does not support a tag, it just ignores it.

[back to Creating HTML Documents](#)  
[on to Basic Markup Tags](#)  
[return to Beginner's Guide](#)   [Contents](#).