



# Website Design 3

## Introduction

In part 2 a single attribute of the text was changed; the first few words were made bold. ('**This is text for** the web page'). The web browser is a complex program that will translate many attributes and display them on the screen. This section looks at some additional tags and examines how the browser deals with typing errors.

## Adding attributes or properties

The majority of the web site will be concerned with displaying text and images. If the browser does not receive any instructions then the default setting will be used. These will be black text on a white background with a predefined font and text size. There are defaults for paragraphs ie text contained within <p> and </p>. There are also six headings for titles, sub-titles etc which are invoked by using the tags <h1> though <h6> with the closing tags </h1> etc. So adding a heading tag <h1> to the one.html page using Notepad will change the enclosed text into a heading. So with one.html as

```
<html>
  <head>
    <title>TITLE</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    <h1>Heading 1 on the page</h1>
    <b>This is text for </b>the web page
  </body>
</html>
```

the following will display in a browser.

## Heading 1 on the page

**This is text for** the web page

## Using color not colour

In the example the displayed output has been in black and white only – this is the default, if different colors are to be used the browser needs to be told. Note that color uses the American spelling, this is common in the software industry and just needs to be accepted. Eg a search for 'colour' in the Dreamweaver help returns the message 'No Topics Found'. Other words eg center also have the American spelling.

The tag for defining the background color is <bgcolor> and the color itself is defined via a code, eg FF0000 is red. So adding the tag <body bgcolor="ff0000"> which when translated means set the body background color to red.

The color is coded using a hexadecimal code (using 0123456789ABCDEF). It is not necessary to either understand hexadecimal or remember the codes. There are separate cross-reference tables if you are coding using Notepad (one is included as Web design 4) and Dreamweaver has a built in color selection system.

Adding the line of code to the **one.html** file will give the following display in a browser.



## Heading 1 on the page

**This is text for the web page**

The revised html code to generate the above is:

```
<html>
  <head>
    <title>TITLE</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    <body bgcolor="ff0000">
      <h1>Heading 1 on the page</h1>
      <b>This is text for </b>the web page
    </body>
</html>
```

If an error is made and the tag is mistyped eg bgcolor the browser will not understand or know what to do with the command; bgcolor is not in the browser's vocabulary. So the browser will simply ignore the entire tag; it will be as if the tag does not exist.

This is standard practice for all browsers. The more modern browsers will support and recognize more commands and tags. If the web page contains the latest tags but is displayed using an old browser the old browser will simply ignore anything it does not understand. In the same way that at sometime in the future, browsers will be built to understand the word colour, today they do not and so they ignore the entire tag.

The text can be centred on the page by using the tag <center> (American spelling) and the closing tag </center>. ie <center><b>This is text for </b>the web page</center>.

This simple example illustrates another key aspect of web site design and development; every single letter or character can be significant. Great care needs to be exercised or time will be wasted looking for errors – Dreamweaver and other tools will help with the process but do not remove the need for using standards, accurate typing and adequate planning before you start.

Note all of the tags are in lower case; all opening tags have a corresponding closing tag. The tag for the background color (bgcolor) does not have a closing tag, it is not logical for there to be a closing tag, the background is set once, unlike bold which can be switched on and off several times in one sentence.

## Summary

You can see that attribute tags can be applied to text and these allow the colour, font style, font size etc to be changed. Tags will allow most things on a web page to be defined and there are also tags that will allow Assets (the term used by Dreamweaver for items such as text, images, movie clip, links etc) to be positioned on the web page. And it is important to note that browsers will ignore anything they do not understand.

## About the author

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