

Lesson 2-1: Understand HTML bold, italic and heading tags

You've already touched on HTML a few times in this book, enough to understand that it is a vital part of every web site.

This lesson covers some of the basics of writing HTML code.

1 Open *HTMLTest* from your sample files folder.

You will find this in the *Sample Projects* subfolder.

2 Open *default.aspx* in *Source* view.

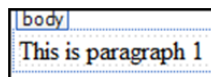
3 Add some text.

1. Type the following into the gap between `<div>` and `</div>`:

This is paragraph 1

```
<body>
  <form id="form1" runat="server">
    <div>
      This is paragraph 1
    </div>
  </form>
</body>
```

2. Switch to *Design* view and you'll see that the text appears on the page.



4 Make the text bold.

The `` tag makes text bold.

1. Switch to *Source* view.

2. Change the paragraph to look like this:

This is paragraph 1

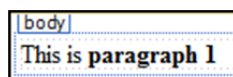
```
<div>
  This is <b>paragraph 1</b>
</div>
```

When you type the first `` tag you'll see IntelliSense at work (see sidebar).

Everything between `` and `` will be made bold.

3. Switch back to *Design* view.

You'll see that the text *paragraph 1* is now displayed in bold.



5 Make text italic.

The `<i>` tag works in the same way as the `` tag to make text italic.

1. Switch back to *Source* view again.

note

IntelliSense

When you're typing in the code for this lesson, a menu might start popping up when you type with all kinds of strange things in it.

This is the *Intellisense* menu, and you'll learn all about it in *Lesson 5-1: Use IntelliSense*.

You will also find that closing tags are 'helpfully' added when you type a starting tag. Although this is sometimes annoying, it's normal behavior and can be useful.

important

HTML opening and closing tags

Most HTML tags have an opening tag, such as `` and a closing tag, such as ``.

Everything between the two tags is affected by them. For example, anything between `` and `` will be displayed in bold.

If you are not completing the course incrementally use the sample file: **Lesson 2-1** to begin this lesson.

Sample files with the starting point for each lesson are also provided for all of the other lessons in this session.

2. Change the paragraph to look like this:

```
<i>This is <b>paragraph 1</b></i>
```

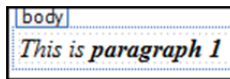
```
<div>
  <i>This is <b>paragraph 1</b></i>
</div>
```

Everything between `<i>` and `</i>` will be made *italic*. Note that this includes the contents of the `` tag.

When tags are put inside other tags like this, it is called 'nesting'.

3. Switch back to *Design* view.

This time you'll see that the whole paragraph is italic, with the words *paragraph 1* in bold and italic.



Notice the order of the closing tags. It's important that you close the tags in the same order in which you opened them.

6 Make text into a heading.

1. Return to *Source* view.
2. Add a new line before the existing text.
3. Add the following code:

```
<h1>This is the page heading</h1>
```

```
<div>
  <h1>This is the page heading</h1>
  <i>This is <b>paragraph 1</b></i>
</div>
```

4. Switch to *Design* view.

You'll see that the contents of the `h1` tag are very big and bold!



5. Return to *Source* view.
6. Change your `<h1>` and `</h1>` tags into `<h2>` and `</h2>` tags.

```
<div>
  <h2>This is the page heading</h2>
  <i>This is <b>paragraph 1</b></i>
</div>
```

7. Switch to *Design* view.

You'll see that `h2` is slightly smaller than `h1` (see sidebar for more).



note

Other heading tags

HTML provides the heading tags: `h1`, `h2`, `h3`, `h4`, `h5` and `h6`.

The default styles for the heading tags get smaller from 1 to 6, but the default sizes can be changed using CSS, which you'll learn about in: *Lesson 2-8: Work with CSS*.

Heading tags are important because search engines often consider them to have greater weight when analyzing a site's content.

A search engine will consider `h1` headings to be the most important, then `h2`, etc.

You'll notice that the heading tags automatically insert a new line after them. This is very similar to the paragraph tag, which you'll learn about in: *Lesson 2-2: Understand HTML paragraph and break tags*.