* **LESSON 3 INTRODUCTION TO HTML (HYPERTEXT MARKUP LANGUAGE)**

**Introduction to HTML (HyperText Markup Language)**

Welcome to the first step in your journey towards mastering website development – learning HTML! In this section, we will delve into the essentials of HyperText Markup Language (HTML), the backbone of all web pages. HTML is the standard language used to create and design the structure of web pages. It forms the foundation upon which you will build more complex web development skills.

**What is HTML?**

HTML, or HyperText Markup Language, is a coding language used to create the structure and content of a webpage. It consists of a series of elements that you can use to enclose or wrap different parts of the content to make it appear or act in a certain way.

**Key Concepts in HTML**

* **HTML Elements and Tags:**
  + HTML elements are the building blocks of HTML pages.
  + Tags are used to create HTML elements and are enclosed in angle brackets (e.g., **<tag>**).
* **HTML Document Structure:**
  + An HTML document starts with a **<!DOCTYPE html>** declaration followed by **<html>**, **<head>**, and **<body>** tags.
  + The **<head>** section contains meta-information, and the **<body>** section contains the content of the document.
* **Common HTML Tags:**
  + **Headings (<h1> to <h6>):** Define headings, with **<h1>** being the highest (or most important) level and **<h6>** the lowest.
  + **Paragraphs (<p>):** Define paragraphs.
  + **Links (<a>):** Create hyperlinks. The **href** attribute specifies the URL of the page the link goes to.
  + **Images (<img>):** Embed images. The **src** attribute specifies the path to the image.
  + **Lists (<ul>, <ol>, <li>):** Create unordered (bulleted) and ordered (numbered) lists.
  + **Tables (<table>, <tr>, <td>):** Create tables, rows, and cells.
* **Attributes:**
  + Attributes provide additional information about HTML elements.
  + They are always included in the opening tag and usually come in name/value pairs like **name="value"** (e.g., **<a href="https://example.com">link</a>**).

**Creating Your First HTML Page**

* **Setting Up Your HTML Document:**
  + Open your favorite code editor and create a new file named **index.html**.
  + Add the basic HTML structure

<!DOCTYPE html>

<html>

<head>

<title>My First Web Page</title>

</head>

<body>

<h1>Welcome to My Website</h1>

<p>This is my first paragraph of text.</p>

</body>

</html>

* **Saving and Viewing Your HTML Page:**
  + Save the file and open it in a web browser.
  + You should see a simple webpage with a heading and a paragraph.

**The Importance of HTML in Web Development**

* **Foundation of Web Pages:**
  + HTML is the fundamental language of the web. Every webpage you create will start with HTML.
  + Understanding HTML is crucial for learning other web development technologies like CSS and JavaScript.
* **Structured Content:**
  + HTML provides a way to structure content logically and semantically.
  + Proper use of HTML elements ensures your content is accessible and understandable by users and search engines.
* **Web Accessibility:**
  + Using HTML correctly can improve accessibility for people with disabilities.
  + Semantic HTML elements help assistive technologies interpret and navigate web content more effectively.

**Why You Should Continue Learning HTML**

* **Essential Skill:**
  + Mastering HTML is essential for anyone interested in web development.
  + It is the first step towards becoming a proficient web developer.
* **Easy to Learn:**
  + HTML is straightforward and easy to learn, making it an ideal starting point for beginners.
  + You can quickly see the results of your coding efforts in a web browser.
* **Build Confidence:**
  + Creating your first HTML pages will build your confidence and motivation to learn more complex web development topics.
  + Seeing your progress in real-time is incredibly rewarding.
* **Foundation for Advanced Topics:**
  + A strong understanding of HTML will make learning CSS and JavaScript easier.
  + These languages build on the foundation that HTML provides.