

Website Development

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3 Links

We use hyperlinks to transfer control to another website or to another page.

3.1 Formatting Links

Traditionally, a link is shown as blue with an underline - see Google.co.uk for example. Some links change colour if they have been visited and some links change their appearance if a mouse pointer is over them.

We specify a link to be blue, and an underline to be shown if a mouse pointer hovers over it.

The entire style sheet, named linkstyle.css, is shown below.

```
/* linkstyle.css - style sheet for links.html and links2.html
*/

p {
    font-family: Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif;
}

p {
    font-size: 1em;
    line-height: 1.5em;
}

a:link, a:visited {
    color: blue;
    background: transparent;
    text-decoration: none;
}

a:hover {
    text-decoration: underline;
}

a:active {
    text-decoration: none;
}
```

If we specify a colour (notice the American spelling) we are obliged to specify a background; transparent means the underlying colour shows through.

3.2 Link to a Website

To link to the Website Development course website we write:

```
<p>Link to the  
<a href="http:www.tmarris.com"  
target="_blank"  
title="Link to WSD Website">  
course website</a></p>
```

<a starts an anchor tag.

href is the hypertext anchor attribute.

"http:www.tmarris.com" is the destination website address. Notice the quotation marks. http tells the browser that hypertext transfer protocol is to be used (rather than any other protocol such as https or ftp).

ALWAYS use forward slashes, /, browsers do not usually interpret backward slashes in the way you intend.

target="_blank" means open in a new window (so that users can visit other websites without leaving yours).

title="Link to WSD Website"> is the text that is shown when a mouse pointer hovers over the link. Notice the >.

The text shown between > and , *course website* in our example, is the hyperlink.



3.3 Link to a Page

To link to another page we write:

```
<p><a href="links2.html"
target="_self"
title="Link to next page">
Next Page</a></p>
```

links2.html is the page we are linking to.

target="_self" means the page (links2.html) replaces the current page (links.html) in the browser. You would use this style in a menu system for example.

3.4 The HTML File

Here is the entire HTML file, links.html.

```
<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD HTML 4.01
Transitional//EN">
<html>
<head>
<title>Links</title>
<meta http-equiv="Content-Type"
content="text/html; charset=utf-8">

<style type="text/css">
@import url(linkstyle.css);
</style>

</head>
<body>
<p>Link to the <a href="http://www.tmarris.com"
target="_blank" title="Link to WSD Website">course
website</a></p>

<p><a href="links2.html" target="_self" title="Link to next
page">Next Page</a></p>
</body>
</html>
```

Of course, the file links2.html must exist. Here it is:

```
<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD HTML 4.01
Transitional//EN">
<html>
<head>
<title>Links2</title>
<meta http-equiv="Content-Type"
content="text/html;charset=utf-8">
<style type="text/css">
@import url(linkstyle.css);
</style>

</head>
<body>
<p><a href="links.html" target="_self"
title="Link to previous page">Previous Page</a></p>
</body>
</html>
```

It contains a link to the previous page, links.html.

3.5 Exercise

1. Create two web pages that link to each other. On one page provide a link to a website of your choice. Ensure that each page, and the corresponding style sheet, all pass validation checks. Ensure that each link works.