Coding HTML with NVDA -Part 1(Learning the Language)

Disclaimer: all text in between asterisks (\*) is what is spoken by the screen reader

# Introduction

Hey guys what is up, its your girl Thee Quinn and I’m here with a brand new series. Yes this is my html series. Since I have launched my brand new website, a lot of you guys have been asking me and recommending that I do an html series and its finally here. In this series I am going to teach you guys how to structure and design websites from scratch, and then how you can deploy them later on. So hopefully you guys are excited for this series. But before we get into it, as usual remember to like the video if you love the content, subscribe if you are new, and turn on that notification bell to be alerted when I post a new video. Also note that the instrumentals for this video have been provided by Inner Sanctum Entertainment Ltd. But without further ado, lets get right into it.

# Start of tutorial

So in this first video, all I will be doing is a basic introduction to html. You will learn what it is , what it does, what you need to write it, and how you can view the website that you have created when you are finished. First of all what does html actually stand for? Html stands for hypertext markup language. HTML is the language in which most websites are written and It is used to structure a web page and its content. HTML consists of a series of elements that tells the browser how to display the content. We can use the elements to label the content to let the browser know that it is a heading, paragraph, list, etc.

So what exactly is an element? an html element consists of a starting tag, some content and then an end tag. The name of both the start and end tags are enclosed in between angle brackets (that is the lesser than and greater than sign). Also a forward slash should be placed before the name of the end tag. For example, this is the basic syntax of an html tag:

\*<tagName> place your content here. </tagName>\*

Everything from the start tag to the end tag is the element. I will see if I can find a link of a website or two that list all the html elements and what they can do so that you will have access to it. I will try to put that link down below in the description so look out for it. Note that there are also some elements that have no content inside of them. These are called empty elements and do not have an end tag. And of course you will learn more about these later on as we go through this tutorial. Lastly, these tags can also have attributes. These contain additional info about a tag and help us to be able to customize a tag to suit our needs. in this series, I will be going through many of these different tags and their attributes to demonstrate how they work, and how you can use them.

So how does it all work you may ask. As I said earlier, your html file will communicate to your browser the structure of your website. So your browsers such as chrome or Firefox read html files and display them based on the structure that is specified in your file. The browser does not display the html tags themselves, but uses them to determine how to display the content.

So what do you need to code html? Web pages can be created and modified by using professional HTML editors. But really, all you need is a simple text editor like note pad for windows or text edit for mac. Also as screen reader users, I recommend turning on the reporting of line indentation for this series, as I will be using indentation throughout this series.

You can do this by opening the NVDA menu by using your NVDA key plus N. Down arrow to preferences and press enter. Enter on settings, then go down to document formatting. Then tab to line indentation and down arrow to change it to speech. Then tab to ok and press enter. Now lets get into the demonstration.

# Writing some code

So firstly of course, you will need to open your editor. I will be using notepad for this tutorial so let me open it. Now that we are on a blank document, let’s start writing some code. First we need to layout our page with the following tags. So the first one is:

\*<!DOCTYPE html>\*

This tag defines the document as an html 5 document. This tag should not contain any content and does not require a closing tag. Then press your enter to go into the next line, and type:

\*<html>\*

This tag signals that from now on we are going to write an html code. It is the route element for html webpages. Then enter to go into a new line, and type this tag:

\*<head>\*

This is where all the meta information about the html page is contained. This information may include character set, page description, keywords, author of the document, and viewport settings. Then press your enter key and type the next tag which would be:

\*<body>\*

This is where all the content of your page that will be displayed on the website will go. Tags for things such as your headings, paragraphs, and lists will be contained within this body tag.

These tags should be placed underneath each other at the top of every HTML page that you create. So let me read them again starting from the top:

\*

<!DOCTYPE html>

<html>

<head>

<body>

\*

Also note that the same order that you open these tags is the same order that they should be closed in. So let me go ahead and close the tags that have a closing tag in the same order. So remember we were on the last line that said

\*<body>\*

Now lets go above this and close the head tag because the head tag and the body tag are practically on the same level. So let me go above this.

\*<head>\*

Then press end to go to the end of this line. Press enter to go into a new line. Now lets close the end tag, so:

\*</head>\*

Now lets go down to the body tag

\*<body>\*

Then press my end key to go to the end of the line. Press enter to go into a new line. Then lets close this body tag:

\*</body>\*

Now the last tag that we have to close is the actual html tag, because remember that I said that the doctype html tag did not have a closing tag. So I’ll press enter to go into the next line. Then lets close that html tag.

\*</html>\*

Now let me read from the top to let you hear what you should currently have on your notepad file:

\*

<!DOCTYPE html>

<html>

<head>

</head>

<body>

</body>

</html>

\*

Now let us create a basic page so that we can save it and see how it works. First, let’s look at a tag called the title tag. This tag is always found in the <head> tag and it is where we will insert our page name. This page name will appear at the top of the browser window or tab. So let’s go to the line with the starting head tag.

\*<head>\*

Then use your end key to go to the end of it. Then press enter to create a new blank line under it.

Note that because this title tag is found in the head tag, it needs to be in between the starting and closing tag of the head tag. Now before we start typing the tag

Another thing we must take into consideration when writing html code is indentation. It is good practice to indent tags which are in other tags. This is not important, as the spaces are ignored by browsers, but it makes it easier for you who is doing the coding or persons who might view your code to be able to follow. So because this title tag is within the head tag, I will indent it a bit. It is also good to be consistent with your indentation throughout the code. So for example if I indent a tag which is found within another tag by 2 spaces. If another tag will be found within that indented tag, I would indent by an additional 2 spaces which will make it 4 in total. You might not get it now but you will understand it later on when we go through.

So now as I said before let me now turn on my line indentation so you can hear the indentation as we go through. Ok now, within my file I am going to stay consistent with using 2 spaces for indentation. So right here where I am on this blank line between the head tag, I am going to indent 2 spaces.

\*space space\*

Now lets put our actual title tag. So we will put the opening tag for it

\*<title>\*

Now before we close it, we will have to put the title that we want for our page. For this tutorial, I am going to put test website.

\*TQ Test Website\*

Then once you are finished typing the name for your title, you can close the tag. So:

\*</title>\*

So this entire line should be saying:

\*<title>TQ Test Website</title>\*

Awesome. Now lets add two tags to the body of our website so that we will actually see something being displayed. So lets first go into the line that has in the starting body tag.

\*<body>\*

Then lets go to the end of this line. Then press enter to create a blank line under it. Now lets add a simple heading to our website. As a screen reader user, you should be familiar with the different heading levels from level one to 6 when browsing webpages. Each of those heading levels have its own tag.

From level 1 to 6 h1, h2, h3, h4, h5, h6 respectively. So because this is going to be the main heading of my website, let me use the level 1. So because it is within the body tag I will indent(keeping consistent with the 2 space indentation that I started using from above).

\*Space space\*

Then I will type the opening tag

\*<h1>\*

Now lets type in the heading that I want for my website. So let’s call it Welcome To My Website.

\*Welcome to My Website\*

Then when you are finished typing your heading, you will close the heading tag.

\*</h1>\*

So your line should be reading:

\*<h1>Welcome to My Website</h1>\*

Awesome! Now lastly, lets add a line of text under this heading. Please Note also that the elements of the webpage will appear in the order that you code them. So let me enter into a new line under this heading because I want the text to be under the heading. So let me go to the end of the line and press enter. Now this element that I am going to put is going to be in line with the heading tag. So I am going to indent it two spaces as well.

\*space space\*

Now this element that we are about to use is called the paragraph element. This element is represented by the letter P. so in order to write a line of text under my heading, I will first open the paragraph tag:

\*<p>\*

Then I will type my line of text.

\*This is a test.\*

Then I will close my paragraph tag.

\*</p>\*

So your line should read:

\*<p>This is a test.</p>\*

Great it’s now time to save and view our first webpage.

Let me just read everything again so that you can ensure that you have everything before we save.

\*

<!DOCTYPE html>

<html>

<head>

 <title>TQ Test Website</title>

</head>

<body>

 <h1>Welcome to My Website</h1>

 <p>This is a test</p>

</body>

</html>

\*

Alright now it’s time to save the document. So go into your file menu Alt + F and down arrow to save as. Or you can just press Ctrl + S. Then first shift tab to the tree view and choose a location for your file. Then tab back to the file name section. Now this is where you need to pay attention. You must save your html files with an “.html” extension or they won’t work. The format for saving your file is “filename.html”. so if you want to call it dog, it will be “dog.html. so for this I am going to call it “testweb.html”. then lastly before we save this file, tab over to where it says save as type. Now we need to change this from a text document so that it will save as a .html file. So right now I want you to down arrow to where it says all files. Then from right here you can shift tab right back over to file name. and you realize that it takes off the .txt extension. Then once you are finished, you can press enter to save.

Now I want you to find the location where you saved your file because now we are going to open your file onto the browser of your choice to view your website. Once you are selected on your file you would press your applications key (or shift plus F10).

\*context menu\*

Then down arrow to open with and press enter. Then you can down arrow through this list to the browser of your choice. But I am currently selected on google chrome so I’ll press enter.

\*

TQ Test Website-Google Chrome

TQ Test Website

Welcome to my website

This is a test.

\*

Awesome! So guys there it is. There is my website. And as I told you before the page name appears up in the title bar for the window. You would hear it if you press your NVDA key plus T. and now you can press Ctrl plus home and read from the top of the page with your down arrow.

That is it. And that is the basics of html. Hopefully that seemed exciting enough because from here on out, we are going to go through and you will actually be able to create your own completely functional website from scratch. Hopefully you guys enjoyed this video, and you will be looking out for the rest of the videos in this series. Remember that a link to a reference for all the html 5 tags will be in the description. Remember to like the video if you love the content, subscribe if you are new, and turn on my notification bell to be alerted when I post a new video in the series. Thanks again for watching and I will see you next time.