Coding HTML with NVDA – Part 2(Getting Set Up and Attributes)

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

# Introduction

Hey guys its your girl Thee Quinn here and I’m back with the second video in the HTML series. A lot of you guys enjoyed the last video and I’m back with another quick video for the series. I am extremely busy right now but I didn’t want to leave you guys hanging, so I said let me just push this one out. In this video we will be finishing our setup to get you guys ready to actually start coding your own website, and I will also be teaching you about attributes. But before we get into this video, remember please like the video if you love the content, subscribe if you are new, and turn on that notification bell to be alerted whenever I will post the next video in this series. 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

Ok so last time I gave you guys a basic introduction to html. So now you know what it is, how it works , and how you can use it. Now I am going to take you through some basic steps that you will follow when creating your web site and then later I will introduce you to attributes, what they are, and how you can use them. So when creating your website, you should start out by creating a folder to put all the files relating to your website. These may include the html files, images, CSS files etc. this folder will be important especially when it’s time to deploy your website. So find a location of your choice and create your folder there. I am going to create mine on my desktop so let me go there, so my Windows plus D. Then let me use Ctrl + Shift + N to create a new folder. And let me call it ”Web Series”. Then press enter to create it and let’s open it. Now we are going to move the html file that we created last video into this folder. So let me do that and get back to you.

The next thing that I am actually going to do is to rename the file. When we deploy our code we will be uploading the folder that we created for the website, which is also called a directory. When we do this, especially if you have multiple html files in the folder, which means a website with multiple pages, the server will need to identify which html file to display as your home page. That is, the default page that is displayed once someone visits your website domain. This can be configured in your server settings based on which server you use to deploy your website. However, there is a certain name that we can give the file and most web servers will automatically detect this file as the file to display as your home page. This name is “index.html”.

This is written in all lower case letters. so I want this file that we were working on last video, that I am now selected on in my Web Series folder to be the file for my home page. So I am going to change the name from testweb.html to index.html. So let me press F2 to change the name. then let me type index. Then press enter to save it. Awesome.

Also, while we are on the topic of file names, here are some best practice tips when naming your html files:

1. Don’t use any special characters. Stick to letters, numbers, underscores, periods and hyphens.
2. Do not use any spaces.
3. It is best to stick to lower case letters.
4. Start the name with a letter.

Alright now let us get back to editing that file that we created from the last video. To do that, once selected on it press your applications key or shift plus F10. Then down arrow to open with or just press H. Then down arrow to notepad and press enter. Awesome now we are back in this document.

Now let me read from the top of the document to remind you what we had in it from the last video. Note that I have my reporting of line indentation turned on:

\*

<!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>

\*

So as you can see, other than the tag that should be at the extreme top of your document, which is the DOCTYPE tag. All the code on your html file must be in between an opening and closing html tag. Now there is one additional thing that I need to mention about the html tag. Remember last video I told you that your tags can have something called attributes. These attributes allow us to provide additional info about the tag so that we can customize them to our specific needs. An attribute is always found in the opening tag of an HTML element. The syntax for an html attribute is:

\*name=”value”\*

so this is how it would look within an opening tag:

\*<tagName name=”value”>\*

Attributes can be written in any order inside the opening tag. However, you cannot put multiple instances of the same attribute inside the same HTML tag. Throughout this tutorial, we will go through various tags and attributes that they have.

The first attribute that I am going to introduce to you is the lang attribute. That is LANG and it stands for language. The HTML lang attribute is used to identify the language of text content on the web. This information helps search engines return language specific results, and it is also used by screen readers that switch language profiles to provide the correct accent and pronunciation. Without a language attribute, screen readers will default to the operating system’s language, which could result in mispronunciations of the title and other content on the page. The lang attribute takes an ISO language code as its value. Typically this is a two letter code such as “en” for English, but it can also be an extended code such as “en-gb” for British English. I will provide a link down below in the description to a website that is a reference for all the iso language codes

Now to set the primary language for a document, you use the lang attribute on the opening html tag. Since my website is going to be English, , we’ll set the file’s lang attribute value to “en.”. So let me go to the line with my opening html tag.

\*<html>\*

Then let me press end to go to the end of the line. Then I will use my left arrow to navigate to the spot right in front of the greater than sign. Then press space because a space must be between the name of the tag and the attribute. Then lets type:

\*lang=”en”\*

So your line should read:

<html lang="en">

Awesome. The lang attribute must also be used to identify chunks of text in a language that is different from the document’s primary language. This means that it can also be used in tags such as heading and paragraph tags. This is often overlooked however as it does not really matter to someone viewing the website with their eyes. However, it does matter to us screen reader users as it helps our screen readers to switch to that language profile if you have that feature enabled. And you would add the lang attribute to that element just like how we did with the html tag. You must also note that for some tags, an attribute is mandatory for it to be able to work. For example, with an image tag, the source attribute is mandatory to actually link it to the source of the image.

Alright so that is it for this quick video guys, I know it wasn’t much, but it’s all I have time for right now. You will be seeing a next upload from me soon so look out for that. And don’t forget, remember to save your index.html file. Remember that a link to the website where you can find a reference for the ISO language codes will be down below in the description. Thanks again for watching, remember to like, subscribe, comment, share and I’ll see you guys next time.