0: About this course

Who this course is for

Imagine being able to create a webpage from scratch, using not much more than a text editor. Creating interesting designs that not only convey information but draw in and delight the viewer. And being able to change it at whim whenever you feel inspired. And gathering a portfolio of the weird and wonderful on whatever topic that captures your fancy.

If that sounds like fun, then this course may be for you. Compare it to painting a picture – It will teach you how to use your 'brushes'; what you then paint is up to you.
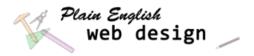
Who it is not for

If all you want is to create a website then this course is not for you. There are quicker ways. For example, you could use an HTML editor such as Dreamweaver, a content management system such as Wordpress, or a website builder such as Wix.

What you will achieve by completing this course

- You will learn the fundamentals of standards-compliant web design
- You will be able to create a simple website
- You will know enough to seek and find answers to further your skill development
- You will have created a simple website that you can add to and build on as your skills develop
- You will have a new hobby and creative outlet

What makes this course different

This course is different because it has been created by one who began by knowing more about information presentation and Plain English than web design. It also differs in covering topics often found in too great a depth to be readily accessible, or difficult to learn about completely without reference to multiple sources.

What you need to get started

Here are the things you'll need to get started:

- A special text editor. Notepad++ or Brackets. These are a free download. Notepad++ is basic, simple and easy to learn. Brackets has all the bells and whistles. There are other text editors available too. Do not confuse 'Notepad++' with the 'Notepad' that comes with Windows.

- Browsers to test your work. The more the better.

Designing for different browsers

Each standards-compliant browser displays webpages slightly differently to the others. This is not a problem. The important thing is to test in a range of browsers to make sure there are no *major* differences and everything works as intended.

Conventions

Here are a few conventions to remember:

- Use lower case in your code.
- The file extension for HTML files can be either htm or html. Here it is htm.
- Use "double" quotemarks, not 'single', in your code.
- Use 'color', not 'colour'.
- The terms 'CSS file' and 'stylesheet' are used interchangeably.

Thank you

The author thanks those behind the many superb online web design resources. Frequent reference has been made to these resources and this work would not have been possible without them. Particular thanks are due to the following:

- CSS-Tricks
- MDN
- Stackoverflow
- W3Schools