

Unit 2 Diary Entry

Matthew Zarowny

ID: 3484796

Athabasca University, 2021

Link to Site:

<http://student.athabascau.ca/~mattewza/Unit2/home.html>

Work Done

In this unit I accomplished two key tasks: I laid the groundwork of my site in HTML compliant code and I critiqued the two sample files. The critique of the sample code is outlined in the following section and the remainder of this section will outline the work I accomplished as it pertains to my HTML site.

I've outlined the work I've done against all of the requirements for the unit in the following table:

Requirement	Work Done
A minimum of three standards compliant HTML pages.	I composed a total of 11 HTML compliant pages. Each of the pages serves its own unique purpose and communicate information and knowledge in an effective manner
At least one image.	I use many images throughout the site and each of them have alt text and are appropriate size for web viewing.
Hyperlinks between all pages.	All pages contain hyperlinks to each other through the list at the top of each page. There are also other links within the text where applicable in order to improve overall site navigation.
At least one hyperlink to an external page.	I use several hyperlinks to external sites. In the setup.html page for example, I link to various sites where more information on downloading and setting up the game can be found.
Sufficient text to require the use of at least two heading titles.	The site is very thorough and employs massive amounts of text throughout. Several pages (e.g. the beginner.html page) use two or more headings (i.e. <h1>, <h2> and <h3>).
At least one list.	There is a list on every page in the form of the main navigation menu.
At least one <div> tag with a specified name ...	I use several <div> tags with names throughout the site for use later. For example, the beginner.html page alone uses three div tags with ids: 'menu', 'about' and 'guide'.
At least one tag with a specified name ...	I use tags throughout the site for use in the future. For example, the faq.html file uses span tags with names 'q' and 'a' for question and answer text respectively.

A table.	I include a table in a couple of places. A table is used on the leaderboard.html page in order to display a leaderboard of users and the scores in the game. I also use a table on the beginner page to display pictures and their corresponding names.
A form.	I included a form on the contact.html page. The form includes a name entry, a drop-down list for a subject and a field for entering text.
Author name and date of last modification on each page.	I've included my name and the date of the last modification as a footer at the bottom of each page.

I used a variety of HTML tags throughout the site and never use them just for the sake of it. The tags I used and why I used them are as follows:

- <html>: for root of the HTML files
- <head>: for containing the metadata of the HTML files
- <title>: for the title of the page
- <div>: for the different sections of the site
- : for later text formatting
- <h1>, <h2>, <h3>: for various headings
- <table>, <th>, <tr>, <td>: for creating the tables
- : for the various images
- <a>: for hyperlinks
- , : for creating unordered lists
- <p>: for creating paragraphs
- <form>, <label>, <input>, <select>, <textarea>, <input>: all were used in order to create the fields of the form (text input, drop-down menu, field for body of text and submit button)
-
: for creating a line break
- <iframe>: for embedding YouTube videos

Overall, I put a lot of work into the site, especially trying my best to write text that communicates information to users in an effective and efficient manner. I kept in mind the personas and scenarios I outlined while composing this text in order to provide an accessible and great experience for all potential users. The composition of the text took by far the most amount of time.

Critique of Sample HTML Files

There are several glaring issues in the first sample file, 'sample1.html'. I've listed them in the following table:

Mistake/Error	Line Number (if applicable)
There is a general lack of comments (i.e. no author, date, description, etc.). This isn't really an error, but I appreciate	

good comments and think it is poor style to omit an author and date at the bare minimum.	
There is no doctype declared (i.e. <!DOCTYPE html>).	
There is no indication of an HTML standard (e.g. XHTML).	
There is a lack of indentation and, although not necessary, this hurts overall readability.	
There is no metadata in the <head>.	Line 2-4
There is no title even though there are tags for one.	Line 3
HTML tags are not case sensitive, so <H1> is fine as opposed to <h1>. However, <h3> is used later instead of <H3>. It would be better form to choose uppercase or lowercase tags and then stick with that throughout.	Line 7 and throughout
Throughout, there are no closing tags for <p> (i.e. no </p>).	Line 8, 13 and throughout.
There is no </h2>.	Line 12
There is a newline character in the middle of a sentence in line 13 that creates a line 14. This just makes code readability awkward and inconsistent.	Line 13
There are a few typos throughout the text, including 'orthe' instead of 'or the' and a loose ')' being left in for no reason.	Line 14 and throughout.
<i> is deprecated in the latest HTML standards. Appropriate CSS should be used instead.	Line 14
There is no </h3>.	Line 16, 22 and 25
The heading title is not on the same line as <H3>. This makes no functional difference, but the text formatting should be kept consistent throughout the file to increase readability.	Line 16
Quotation marks are not used to surround the athabasca.ca link.	Line 18
There is no alt text for the image. Since the image is not supplied to me in this case, this hurts my accessibility because I have no clue what the image is supposed to be.	Line 21
The tag before 'indented' is not closed with a '>' character, but simply left as '<ul'.	Line 23
The table looks odd, but it is not used for layout purposes and perhaps the odd layout is intentional and working as expected.	Line 26-30
There are missing </td> tags for several <td> tags.	Line 26-27

With respect to 'sample2.html', there is not necessarily anything incorrect with it. It follows XHTML standards to the letter and actually includes a title. This is in complete contrast to 'sample1.html'. There could have been indenting to increase readability, but this is not strictly necessary here. The page itself strictly has no content, however. This is not really an error or mistake, simply nothing has been written yet.

Rationale Relating to Personas and Scenarios

The site was meticulously designed and laid out to suit the needs of the 3 personas and several scenarios that were laid in Unit 1. Specifically, a menu is laid out at the top of every page to make navigating through the site extremely quickly. The menu uses self-explanatory titles so that navigation is very simple for all persona types. This was identified as a need of the majority of the personas and provides a solution to many of the scenarios outlined (e.g. wanting to quickly check an FAQ question, wanting to quickly check the leaderboard, etc.).

The home page was designed also to convey quickly and effectively the key information about the game. This will be useful to all users, especially to those that have a persona akin to Tom. It provides them with a history of the game and serves as a springboard into the other areas of the site. The home page also includes a direct link to the setup page for personas like Sally who want to get started with the game at a casual level after reading a bit about it.

The guide pages were designed for personas like Sally and Tom. Headings are clearly identified and the guide is split up into beginner, intermediate and expert pages so that they can find the information that they are looking for much more easily to prevent getting overwhelmed. In this way, the guide can appeal to several personas at once without compromising the integrity of its content.

Learning Outcomes

I have met the stated learning outcomes for this unit, which are stated as follows: “write well-structured, easily maintained, standards-compliant, accessible HTML code. I composed code that is consistently formatted throughout my many .html files in order to make it well-structured and easily understandable so that it can be maintained in the future. I included pictures, headings and alternative text for my images to maximize the accessibility and readability of the site. I complied with HTML standards and did not use deprecated tags.

What Went Well, What Didn't

Overall, the html site building process went very well without many major hiccups along the way. Writing html is fairly intuitive to me and my previous experience prevented me from getting stuck or hitting any large roadblocks. That being said, the scope of my site is quite large and I got a bit carried away writing out content for it. I found myself getting a bit too involved with actually writing the content instead of focusing on the goals of this unit, chiefly writing great HTML compliant code. It all worked out in the end however and I did enjoy writing the content although it did take a long amount of time to do so.

What I Would Change if I Did it Again

If I were to do this again, I may write out in a separate document all of the key text that I want to include ahead of time. When composing the .html files, I was simultaneously writing code

and creating the written content for the site. When writing the content out, however, I realized that the way in which information should be presented should be changed with respect to site layout, format, etc. If I wrote out all of the text ahead of time, then I would know of these changes I would like to make before I begin writing even a single line of html. This would save some time fixing and changing things in the long run.

The Most Surprising and Useful Thing I Learned

The most surprising and useful thing I learned is that laying out the skeleton of an entire site is conducive to productive work in the long run. What I mean by this is that I could not implement any CSS or JavaScript features right away because of the requirements of Unit 2. Normally, I may have spent too much time on visual mark-up before completing the entire body of a site. I think that this way of working on things gives me a better idea of how I want the site to look, feel and be used for when CSS and JavaScript functionality are eventually implemented.

How My Previous Experience Impacted My Work

My previous coding and html experience allowed me to jump headfirst into the work. This saved me some time since I did not have to learn syntax and HTML standards from scratch. Additionally, my experience with troubleshooting and debugging allowed me to quickly overcome the few issues and roadblocks that I did encounter, and I was able to quickly look up how my code should be formatted to comply with HTML standards.