



Chapter 2 - Text Markup

This is an excerpt from Joy Of Code's Workshop - Introduction To XHTML And CSS. For further details see joyofcode.com or contact Bud Kraus, friendly@joyofcode.com, 973 235 1452.

The key to making well-formed documents, that is, web pages that adhere to industry norms, is to create solid, fundamental XHTML through the use of text markup.

Why is creating well-formed documents important?

For starters, it's the way to get designs to have integrity and hold up in legacy, as well as new, technologies. Why create designs which are obsolete at launch or soon thereafter? Why create sites which are going to be a design management nightmare?

I want you not just to learn what these tags do, but to get in your mind that they are not to be misused for style or presentational purposes. For example, you'll see that the heading tags present font with different sizing, but that is not the reason why heading tags are used.

You know about the tags that are required in all XHTML documents. (What, you forgot Chapter 1 already?) This chapter, and the ones that follow, detail tags which fall between the `<body>` `</body>` container.

Give Me Them Old Time Tags!!

First Tags

These first tags provide a simple and most frequently used method of organizing web content.

Table No. 1 - First Tags

Tag	Name	What It Does
<code><p></code>	Paragraph	Separates text (or other elements) into paragraphs.
<code>
</code>	Break	Starts a new line wherever used without creating a new paragraph.
<code><hr /></code>	Horizontal Rule	Makes a dividing line like this: <hr/>

Two Examples:

Code View

```
<p align="right">Using a tag like this lets us start a paragraph on the right side of the page.</p>
```

```
<p align="left">But if I prefer to have my text start from the left margin, I can use the align="left" attribute-value pairing. Notice it's the p tag which has divided these sentences into paragraphs. P is a fundamental XHTML building block.</p>
```

Browser View

Using a tag like this lets us start a paragraph on the right side of the page.

But if I prefer to have my text start from the left margin, I can use the align="left" attribute-value pairing. Notice it's the p tag which has divided these sentences into paragraphs. P is a fundamental XHTML building block.

If I want to break a line of text, rather than have it wrap as it does by default in the above example, I do this:

Code View

```
<p>The rain<br />in Spain<br />stays mainly on the plain!</p>
```

Browser View

The rain
in Spain
stays mainly on the plain!



1. In the last example, I did not give `<p>` an alignment attribute such as center or right. The general rule is that XHTML defaults to the left. Therefore `<p>` is the same as `<p align="left">`, so go ahead and save some keystrokes, and you'll get text that will start at the left margin.
2. `
` is an example of an empty tag, in that there is no real container to speak of. Wherever I placed the `
` the line broke at that spot. It's like hitting the return key on a keyboard.

More On [First Tags](#)

[Home Room](#) | [Front Office](#) | [Work Space](#)

tel - 973 235 1452
friendly@joyofcode.com