

# Joy of Code <Intro To HTML>

This is an excerpt from my online class, Intro To HTML. To see more about it go to [joyofcode.com](http://joyofcode.com) or contact me, Bud Kraus, [bud@joyofcode.com](mailto:bud@joyofcode.com) or 9732351452

## [Lesson 4: Validation](#)

### Why Validate?

For some, the process of validation gets in the way as they create web content. That's a fairly dangerous attitude.

Learn from the start that you need to integrate validation into your workflow process. Once that becomes part of the way you do things, you'll thank me for it. As I like to say, "Validate early and often."

There are four real good reasons why you want to validate your work. Each of them support the principle of adherence to web design standards.

#### One: It Helps Resolve Many Cross-Browser, Cross-Platform And Future Compatibility Issues

By creating files that are syntactically correct, you stand the highest probability that your page will work properly in the greatest number of devices, software and operating systems available today or emerging tomorrow. Using the most widely supported industry standards is a method of safeguarding your designs against future shock.

#### Two : Valid HTML Is The First Step To Getting CSS To Work As It Should

Building web sites is just like building a house. If your structure is no good, for example, if the interior walls are not plumb when you go to apply the wallpaper you'll have a mess. The wallpaper is CSS. Just like the real world, CSS is attached to the structure. If you go on to learn CSS - and I sure hope you will - then you will see how this is so.

#### Three: Search Engine Visibility

Creating well-formed documents means using syntax that search engines, like Google, love. Without getting too techy here, search engine spiders crawl through web sites and index your pages so that others may find you. By using the elements as they are supposed to be used, as I have shown you, your pages are more easily understood by search engines and, therefore, reached by more users.

They are also better understood by humans too (if that is a concern of yours).

#### Four It's A Learning Tool

Just when I thought I knew HTML back in 1997, I met up with Validation. That's when I realized that I was a work in progress. Long after Intro To HTML is over, you'll be using (I hope) validation to check that your page adheres to spec. Where it doesn't you'll be shown, politely, the error of your ways, so that you

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can make corrections to your file.

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## What The Validator Will Not Check

The validator will make a quantitative assessment of your HTML. Are all open tags close in the right order is the main question it will be asking and letting you know if you didn't.

What it does not do is let you know if you've made a well formed document, that is, did you use the elements to give real meaning to your content. You could make a page using only paragraphs and that would be a perfectly valid page as the validator would see it. But leaving out headings, lists and other elements would not serve the purpose of using the elements to give meaning to your content,

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