**Assignment #4: Paragraphs**

## Lesson

# Breaking it up into paragraphs

So far you have created and modified HTML documents, and you should feel comfortable with the process of editing text and reloading it into your web browser. So now relax for this **fast**lesson on inserting paragraph breaks.

### HTML Paragraph Breaks

We've seen earlier that a web browser will ignore all of the CARRIAGE RETURNS typed into your text editor. But, wherever a browser sees the **paragraph** tag, it inserts a blank line and starts a new paragraph. The HTML code for forcing a paragraph break is:

<p>

Note that this tag is special in that it does not require an ending tag; for now you do not need to use:

</p>

In a later lesson we will see why we want to use **<p>** a closing **</p>** for the more current HTML coding standards. For basic HTML coding, let's keep it simple for now.

Also, the **<h>** tags have a built in break so it is unnecessary to put **<p>** tag before a header tag:

<p>

<h2>Blah Blah Blah Blah</h2>

### Inserting Paragraph Breaks

Follow the directions below to insert and view a paragraph break in your HTML document.

1. Re-open your workspace (if not already opened).
2. Go to the text editor window.
3. Open your working document, **volc.html**, in the text editor (if not already opened).
4. First we want to move the sentences **("A volcano is .....")** so that they are under the **Introduction** heading. Use the mouse to **cut** and **paste** this text in the proper location.
5. After these sentences, we want to add some more text. But rather than re-typing this in, from this web page use your mouse to select and **copy** the sentences:
6. Volcanoes have been a part of earth's history
7. long before humans. Compare the history of human
8. beings, a few million years in the making, to that of
9. the Earth, over four billion years in the making.

6. Now, return to your HTML document in the text editor, and **paste** this text after the existing sentences under the **<h2>Introduction</h2>** heading.

7. Save the changes in the text editor.

1. Return to your web browser.
2. If your working document is not visible, Use the **Open Local...** command from the **File** menu to open the document.
3. Select **Reload** from the **File** menu. You should now see the two sentences of the Introduction. We now want to put a paragraph break *between* these sentences.
4. Again, return to your HTML document in the text editor.
5. After the second sentence under **<h2>Introduction</h2>** (the one that ends " as a sticky, slow lava flow."), press RETURN (it is not necessary but it makes the HTML more readable as you work on it), and then enter the **paragraph** tag:
6. <p>

This section should now look like:

<h2>Introduction</h2>

A volcano is a location where magma,

or hot melted rock from within a planet, reaches the surface.

It may happen violently, in a massive supersonic explosion,

or more quietly, as a sticky, slow lava flow.

<p>

Volcanoes have been a part of earth's history long before

humans. Compare the history of human beings, a few million

years in the making, to that of the Earth, over four

billion years in the making.

1. Save the changes in the text editor.
2. Return to your web browser and **Reload** the document. The two sentences of the introduction should now be separate paragraphs.

### Other types of breaks

To separate major sections of a web page, use the **horizontal rule** or **hr** tag. This inserts a straight line like you see right above the heading for this section.

The HTML format for a **horizontal rule** tag is:

<hr>

Let's try it now! Put an **hr** tag above the **Introduction** heading. This will help to separate the opening sentence of the lesson from the other portions that will follow.

And finally, there is the **<br>** tag which forces text to a new line like the **<p>** tag, but without inserting a blank line. You might use this tag when making a list of items, when writing the lines of a poem, etc. Compare the differences between using the **<br>** and **<p>** in these two examples:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Paragraph <p> tags Only** | |
| **HTML** | **Result** |
| And then, we could all see  at once the brilliant purpose  of the paragraph tag.  **<p>**  Moving on...  **<p>**  the more tags you write,  the better you will feel? | |  | | --- | | sample web page | | And then, we could all see at once the brilliant purpose of the paragraph tag.  Moving on...  the more tags you write, the better you will feel? | |
| **Paragraph <p> and Line Break <br> tags** | |
| **HTML** | **Result** |
| And then, we could all see**<br>**  at once the brilliant purpose**<br>**  of the paragraph tag.  **<p>**  Moving on...  **<br>**  the more tags you write,**<br>**  the better you will feel? | |  | | --- | | sample web page | | And then, we could all see at once the brilliant purpose of the paragraph tag.  Moving on...  the more tags you write, the better you will feel? | |

The **<br>** tag can be used for a different layout style for your section headings. If you notice, the **header** tags **<h1>, <h2>, ...** automatically insert white space above and below the text of the header tag. Some web page authors prefer a style that controls this white space.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Section titles with Header Tags** | |
| **HTML** | **Result** |
| and in the end it was all  for naught.  **<h4>**The New Cheese Edict**</h4>**  Later, sir Longhorn declared  that all makers of cheese would  have to be certified before  commencing production. | |  | | --- | | sample web page | | and in the end it was all for naught. The New Cheese Edict Later, sir Longhorn declared that all makers of cheese would have to be certified before commencing production. | |
| **Section titles with <b> and <br> tags NOTE! The <b> tag is covered in the next lesson but all it does is make the text bold.** | |
| **HTML** | **Result** |
| and in the end it was all  for naught.  **<p>**  **<b>**The New Cheese Edict**</b><br>**  Later, sir Longhorn declared  that all makers of cheese would  have to be certified before  commencing production. | |  | | --- | | sample web page | | and in the end it was all for naught.  **The New Cheese Edict** Later, sir Longhorn declared that all makers of cheese would have to be certified before commencing production. | |

The difference may seem trivial now, but it opens up possibilities when later we learn to create text of different size and color for our section headings. For example, take a look at [Web Pages That Don't Look Like Web Pages](http://www.mcli.dist.maricopa.edu/eye/960506.html)

## Check Your Work

If you would like, compare your web page to this [sample](http://www.mcli.dist.maricopa.edu/tut/tut4_ex.html). If your document was different from the sample, review how you entered the paragraph break, **<p>**, into the text editor. Make sure you entered it as instructed in the **Inserting Paragraph Breaks**section of this lesson.

## Review

Answer the following questions in a word document and submit it with the rest of your assignment.

1. What is the HTML tag for a paragraph break?
2. What steps did you use for inserting a paragraph break in your document?
3. How did you display and view the changes in your web browser?
4. **\* Extra Credit:** What is a horizontal rule **<hr>** tag? a **<br>** tag?

## Course Project Task

Use the **<p>**, the **<hr>**, or the **<br>** tags to create paragraphs or sections in your own document.