

HTML Standard HREF Links

The `<a>` and `` tags are used to create links from one web page to another. The following is an example of a link:

```
<a HREF="http://www.earthlink.net">This is a link example</a>
```

As you can see there is a parameter in this example named HREF. The value assigned to the HREF parameter indicates the URL that will be used for navigation when a person clicks on the text associated with the Link.

The associated text is the text after the `` and the `` tags.

To create a link that can be clicked on to start up the mail program associated with the browser, use the following link. Notice there is not a whole lot that is different from linking with the `mailto:` option and the `http` option.

```
<a HREF="mailto:sales@excel.net">Click here to e-mail our Sales Department</a>
```

HTML Targets and Anchors as Links

A Target or sometimes called an anchor is a placeholder within an HTML document that may be used for linking. Rather than link to another document, you are simply creating a link within the same document.

Defining a target is quite simple. Instead of using the `<A HREF>` tag, you use a different parameter in the `<A>` tag so that the tag is a name tag (i.e. ``) - Take the following example where a target is defined as being "target":

```
<a NAME="target"></a>
```

After Defining the target, you can then link to that target. The following shows the code that links to the target we just defined:

```
<a HREF="#target">This is the text that is the link</a>  
<a NAME="target"></a>
```

Notice the `<a HREF>` tag has a pound sign (i.e. #) before the name of the target. It tells the browser to look for a target rather than a URL.

Let's get creative. Let's say in Document A you want to create a link to a target that resides in Document B. The URL for Document B is `http://yourdomain.com/index.html` - within Document B is the following tag about 5 screens down on the page

```
<a NAME="target"></a>
```

In Document A, you create a link to that Target (anchor) by adding the following line:

```
<a HREF="http://yourdomain.com/index.html#target">Click here to go there</a>
```

Notice you simply appended the `#target` onto the end of the URL. This tells the browser to first retrieve the document found at `http://yourdomain.com/index.html` and then after retrieving the document position the document to the target (anchor) `#target`.