What is “HTML”?

The first coding language you need to create a web page is called “HTML” – short for HyperText Markup Language. Despite its scary-sounding name, HTML is simple to learn and is not a complex programming language.

HTML was developed by a scientist named Tim Berners-Lee in 1990 and is the hidden code that displays web page content using ordinary text. It is the standard language on the World Wide Web, and the latest version (HTML5) is described in this book.

When writing HTML code, you add “tags” to the content – to create the structure of the web page. These tags tell the web browser how to display the text and images of the web page. Browsers display the content, but do not display your tags.

The document below has a simple structure of four parts. There is one heading, one paragraph, one image, and one list:

**The Basics of HTML**

HTML is the standard markup language for creating web pages.

- HTML describes web page structure using markup code
- HTML elements are the building blocks of a web page
- HTML elements are represented by tags
- HTML tags label pieces of content, such as heading, paragraph, list, etc.