

Chapter 8: Demystifying Basic CSS and XHTML

Adding Content

Easy Web Design, Chapter 8, pages 188-253

Easy Web Design's Chapter 8 project shows you how to create a Web site by creating XHTML documents and cascading style sheets in WordPad.

In the extra steps offered here, you can insert body text into the roadside Web site's home page. What this endeavor actually boils down to is practice in formatting text. The main content of the home page consists of the following elements:

- *Drop cap* (a large letter at the start of a paragraph)
- Paragraph text with italic and bold formatting
- Block quote
- Heading
- Bulleted list

Some of these elements you've already created in the walkthrough, so we'll just present the text here for you to enter (such as the code and text for the bulleted list). But we'll also show you how to create styles and insert a drop cap as well as apply italic, bold, and block quote formatting.

The first section shows you how to create a drop cap.

Dropping in a Drop Cap

Creating a drop cap is a good exercise in using many of the CSS text properties. After you define the drop cap property values, you simply use a `` tag pair around the body text you want to format as a drop cap. Here's the process:

1. Open your **presentation** style sheet in your text editor, click under the **footer_links** class, and press ENTER.
2. Type the following style (at this point in the walkthrough, most of the properties should look familiar):

```
.dropcap {  
    float: left;  
    position: relative;  
    font-family: Verdana, Arial, sans-serif;  
    font-size: 200%;  
    font-weight: bold;  
    color: #D1D1D1;  
    line-height: 1em;  
    margin: 3px 6px 4px 0;  
    padding: 2px 6px 4px 6px;  
    border: 1px solid #CC9966;  
    background: #952C29;  
}
```

3. Save your work.
4. Open **index.html** in your text editor.

5. In the **centercolumn** area, click after `</h1>`, and press ENTER twice.
6. Type (or copy and paste) the following paragraph text, which includes paragraph tags, the **dropcap** class, and **emphasis** (italic) formatting:

```
<p><span class="dropcap">L</span>ong before the
Internet, there was <em>The Road.</em> Roadways
have served as the lifeblood of communication
for centuries. Reliable and romantic, roads
have contributed more to our cultural history
than pizza and French fries combined. After
all, you know what they say:</p>
```

7. Save your work.
8. If desired, preview index.html in your browser window.

Creating Blockquote Text

As you might have noticed, the paragraph you typed in the preceding section leaves readers dangling. You can solve that by inserting a block quote below the existing paragraph. But before you enter the block quote, you need to define the **blockquote** style in the **styles_presentation.css** file. To save readers from dangling, follow these steps:

1. Open your **presentation** style sheet in your text editor, click under the **dropcap** class, and press ENTER.
2. Type the following style:

```
blockquote { color: #952C29; }
```

3. Save your work, and then open **index.html** in your text editor.
4. In the **centercolumn** area, click after **...you know what they say:</p>**, and then press ENTER twice.
5. Press TAB, and then type the following text (note that the text includes an HTML entity for the em dash):

```
<blockquote>Would Paul Revere's ride be famous if he
just shot off a few e-mails? Nay&mdash'tis
unthinkable!</blockquote>
```

```
<blockquote>Would Jack Kerouac's <em>On the
Road</em> be a cult classic if all he did was surf
the net? No way, man!</blockquote>
```

6. Save your work.
7. Preview index.html in your browser window.

Entering the Rest of the Text

The remaining text on the home page consists of a couple of paragraphs, a heading, and an unordered list. If you'd like to practice entering and formatting body text, follow these steps:

1. In the **index.html** file, click after the **</blockquote>** end tag you created in the preceding section, and press ENTER twice.
2. Type the following paragraph tags and text:

```
<p>The net can show you where to go in life, but you
have to hit the road to live it. </p>
```

3. Press ENTER twice, press TAB, and then type the following heading tags and heading text:

```
<h2>Older Than the Hills...</h2>
```

4. Press ENTER twice, and then type the following paragraph:

```
<p>Many roadside attractions have been around longer
than most of the roads that lead to them. Take a
drive to find old-timey national treasures, such
as:</p>
```

5. Press ENTER twice, press TAB, and create the following bulleted (unordered) list:

```
<ul>
    <li>The prehistoric shark fossil in the Pacific
Northwest</li>
    <li>The ancient cursed Octopi Forest near the
Virginia coastline</li>
    <li>A monument to the great Jackalope-Dinosaur
Wars in the plains of Montana</li>
    <li>The petrified building-block Display of the
Gods in Arizona</li>
    <li>The mystical Egyptian beehive colony frozen
in time in New Mexico</li>
    <li>and so very much more...</li>
</ul>
```

6. To finish the page, press ENTER twice, press TAB, and type the final paragraph, which includes some boldfaced (strong) text:

```
<p>Pick your states and create your own trail, or  
check back next week to see our recommended  
<strong>Older Than the Hills National  
Tour.</strong></p>
```

7. Save your work.
8. Preview index.html in your browser window.

Great job! Now return to Chapter 8 in the *Easy Web Design* book to complete the walkthrough and learn how you can use the roadside site as a template.