

# XHTML Introduction

**What is XHTML?** (partially quoted from Joe Burns at HTML Goodies)

**X-H-T-M-L** are initials that stand for eXtensible **H**yper**T**ext **M**arkup **L**anguage (computer people love initials and acronyms -- you'll be talking acronyms ASAP). Let me break it down for you:

- **Extensible** means that there is an allowance of adding new functionality or modifying existing functionality. It is flexible.
- **Hyper** is the opposite of static. You will be creating documents that are active. The nature of the World Wide Web encourages this.
- **Text** is what you will use. Real, honest to goodness English letters.
- **Mark up** is what you will do. You will write in plain English and then mark up what you wrote with codes added to the text to signal structure, formatting, or processing commands.
- **Language** because they needed something that started with "L" to finish HTML and Hypertext Markup *Louie* didn't flow correctly. Because it's a language, really -- but the language is plain English.

## XHTML Tags

XHTML works in a very simple, very logical, format. It reads like you do, top to bottom, left to right. That's important to remember. XHTML is written with TEXT. What you use to set certain sections apart as headings, subtitles, bold text, underlined text, etc is a series of tags.

Think of tags as making your structure. Let's say you want a heading. You will put a tag at the exact point you want the heading to start and another tag where you want the heading to stop. If you want just a word to be emphasized, you will place a start emphasis tag at the beginning of the word and an end emphasis tag at the end of the word. Is this making sense so far?

**Next, go to the file called "XHTML Template" to get some free code to get your web page started.**