

Dreamweaver Tutorial #9 - Modifying Text

Modifying text in Dreamweaver is very easy. The Properties pane provides you with all the tools needed to modify your text in a variety of ways to include changing the font face, font size, and font color.

Modifying text in the code area:

Modifying text in the code area is no different than modifying text in Notepad. You will need to use `` tags and corresponding attributes to include `face=""`, `size=""`, and/or `color=""`. You can also make your text bold and italic in the code area by using the `` tags and `<i></i>` tags or the viewer accessible `` tags and `` tags. Since we have covered all of these before when learning HTML we will not cover them again here.

There are a few nice aspects to modifying text in the code area. These aspects include:

- Once you have typed the opening tag in the code area, Dreamweaver automatically writes the closing tag for you.
- While adding attributes to a tag Dreamweaver provides a dropdown menu of possible attributes.
- While adding a value to an attribute, Dreamweaver provides value options. For instance if you add the `color=""` attribute to the `` tags, Dreamweaver opens the color picker for your color selection. Once you have selected a color, Dreamweaver assigns the corresponding RGB number to the `color=""` attribute.

Modifying text in the design area:

Before we begin modifying text in the design area we need to make changes to our Dreamweaver preferences. Newer versions of Dreamweaver use Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) by default when formatting text. Using CSS is not a bad thing, but we will learn about CSS later in the semester and I would prefer to not delve into that area just yet.

To change your Dreamweaver preferences:

- Click Edit > Preferences
- In the Preferences dialog box click the General category.
- Ensure that the "Use CSS instead of HTML" checkbox is unchecked.
- Click OK.

To modify text in the design area...

- Locate the text you want to modify.
- Use the pointer to highlight the desired text.
- Use the Font drop down menu in the Properties pane to select a font face. Note that only select font faces are listed in the drop down menu. These font faces are considered to be cross-browser compatible - meaning they should all display appropriately across multiple browsers. Additional font faces can be used, however to do so you must modify the **face=""** attribute in the code area. Also note that not all browsers will display your fancy fonts as you expect them to be displayed.
- Use the Size drop down menu in the Properties pane to modify the size of your text. Sizes are listed as 1-7, +1-7, or -1-7. Sizes 1-7 are absolute sizes. Sizes +1-7 and -1-7 are relative sizes - meaning the text will be modified so many sizes larger or smaller than the current text size.
- Use the Text Color box in the Properties pane to change the color of your text. Clicking the Text Color box opens a color picker and changes your pointer into an eye-dropper. Select any color listed or create your own color using the System Color Picker icon (the icon looks like a multi-colored circle). In the System Color Picker you can select a color from the rainbow or change the Red, Green, Blue (RGB) numbers to create a specific color. RGB colors can only have values ranging from 0-255.
- Use the **B** icon in the Properties pane to make your text bold.
- Use the **I** icon in the Properties pane to make your text italicized.

NOTE!!!

1. Add some text to the design area.
2. Use the **B** or **I** icons to modify the text.
3. View the code in the code area.
4. Note the tags used to create bold or italicized text:
**** and ****

Dreamweaver's default preference is to use **** and **** to make text bold and italicized. Remember that these tags are good for viewers with special viewing needs. If you do not want to use these tags and instead just use the **** and **<i></i>** tags you will need to change your Dreamweaver preferences.

To change your Dreamweaver preferences:

- Click Edit > Preferences
- In the Preferences dialog box click the General category.
- Ensure that the "Use and in place of and <i>" checkbox is unchecked.
- Click OK.