

# Writing high quality code in HTML & CSS

When in web development your front end is the aesthetically pleasing component in your creation, and your code should be no different! HTML & CSS can **both** (like in all languages) end up with messy code bases, especially when trying to make major changes to a rather large site, here are some methods that you can utilize in order to end up with a much cleaner front end that will also be a lot more manageable for your teammates working on it.

## *Keeping the indenting of your html organized, same goes for CSS.*

A very simple way to maintain quality code is to make sure that you always make an indent in the page for a new tag, in which you will line up the closing part of the tag vertical to where it was typed on the page, take a look at this code from this site underneath, which one will be the one you would prefer to look after and maintain?

```
<section class = "main content">
<h1>My education</h1>
<p>
  Like luke I am also at Cardiff uni doing software engineering.
</p>
<br>
<p>I studied my A levels at Arden school doing the following:</p>
<ul id = "list">
  <li>
    Computer Science
    <ul id = "list2">
      <li>Programming in C# and Java</li>
      <li>Working with algorithms and other progressive mathematical concepts.</li>
      <li>Converting from denary to other formats like binary, hex and octal, then vice versa.</li>
    </ul>
  </li>
  <li>
    Psychology
    <ul id = "list2">
      <li>Memory models</li>
      <li>Studying behavioural habits</li>
    </ul>
  </li>
</ul>
</section>
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I'll guess that you'll find that the one on the left will most likely be your code base of choice, there are 2 - 4 spaces added on a new line where a new tag will start, the code should slide down to the right and then back to exactly where you started, just vertically underneath.

## ***Properly naming classes and structuring them for your scope.***

Class names will consistently come up in both your CSS and HTML, this is why they should always be properly named according to your scope. If your project is going to be small, then basic names will do, however, if it will be a larger project with much more class interaction and cross over, then categorising classes always helps. Unlike other programming languages, you **should not** use camelCase in the naming of classes, it just makes them harder to read in the CSS files, use hyphens to emulate spaces instead.

**.navToBar {}**  
**.nav-to-bar**

## **Remember, clean code is quality code!**

Remember that with web development it is easy for a project to quickly go south if it gets messy, especially if you are working in a team, to summarize and add on, the key to high quality CSS & HTML code is the following:

- Remember to keep 2 - 4 spaces before you type in a new parent tag, this is called *indenting* and will help in you and others identify sections.
- Always keep tags lined up vertically in your HTML code if they are major.
- *Name tags always keeping your scope in mind.*
- This is not Java! No camelCase!
- Use an object oriented mindset to tackle the issue of class structure, how will they interact with each other?
- Remember to comment your code, not all of it, just enough to keep people on track if they were working on it / maintaining it, always assume that the next person maintaining your code knows where you live and what your phone number is!

### *Bibliography:*

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