

Write the HTML yourself

40 minutes

Strand 2: Let's get connected

Outcome 2.5

WHAT THIS LESSON DOES

The first time pupils type HTML rather than build it. They work on a small practice page, changing words inside a tag, writing a tag from nothing, nesting a list, and fixing a page they break on purpose.

CURRICULUM OUTCOMES

Outcome	What the specification asks for
2.5	Create a small website using HTML and CSS.

WHAT STUDENTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO

- Write HTML tags by hand and fix them when they break (LO 2.5)

BEFORE THE BELL

- Nothing to prepare. The practice page opens by itself, and it is deliberately not the pupil's project.
- Student devices; the practice page opens by itself

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HOW THE LESSON RUNS

3 min	introduction	Start: what we're building
4 min	content	The shape of a tag
5 min	activity	Change words inside a tag
6 min	activity	Write a whole tag yourself
7 min	activity	Put one tag inside another
9 min	activity	Your turn: add a section by typing
3 min	content	Make sense
2 min	content	Reflect
1 min	summary	What you covered

TEACHING MOVES

- Say the one-way rule out loud before anyone types: once they type in the HTML tab, the code is the page and the blocks stop driving it. "Go back to blocks" is the undo, and it discards the typing.
- The deliberate break in step 4 is the most valuable half minute in the lesson. A missing slash usually swallows the rest of the page, which looks alarming and is completely recoverable.
- Insist on indenting the list, not for tidiness but because it makes the nesting visible and the mistake findable.
- Coach from the error: read down from the last change rather than staring at the whole file.

WHAT TO WATCH FOR

- A closing tag with no slash, which swallows everything below it.
- Smart quotes or capitals in a tag name. Both fail silently and look right.
- Closing the list before the last item closes, which makes the bullets go strange rather than disappear.

DIFFERENTIATION

- Support: changing the words inside a tag and writing one paragraph meets the outcome.
- Extension: a second nested list, or a link typed by hand.
- This is a practice page, so "delete it and start again" is a legitimate move here in a way it will not be on their real site.