

Special Characters

A photograph of a computer setup on a wooden desk. In the foreground, a silver and blue wired computer mouse is prominent, with a red light on its left button. Behind it is a white computer keyboard. To the right, a black computer speaker with a green light is visible. A clear pen lies on the desk in front of the mouse. A semi-transparent grey rectangular box is overlaid on the top half of the image, containing the text 'Special Characters'.

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One space at a time

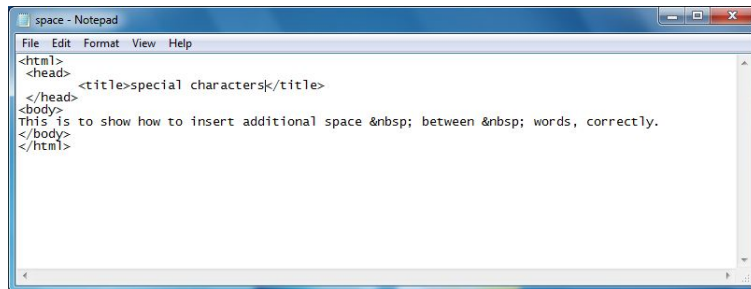
- Web browsers only interpret one space at a time between words
- For example (non complying code – no point in using your space bar):

```
<body>  
This      is      still      only      one      space      between      words  
</body>
```

- Coding consisting of spaces such as the example above would be displayed within the web browser without the spaces. Noting most web browsers abide by HTML standards
- If additional spaces are required, we must use special character insertion
- Special character coding commences with an ampersand **&**
- Next would be the actual code for the special character
- To end the code for special character we must finalise with a semi-colon **;**
- The code for a non-breaking space is: ** **

Non Breaking Space

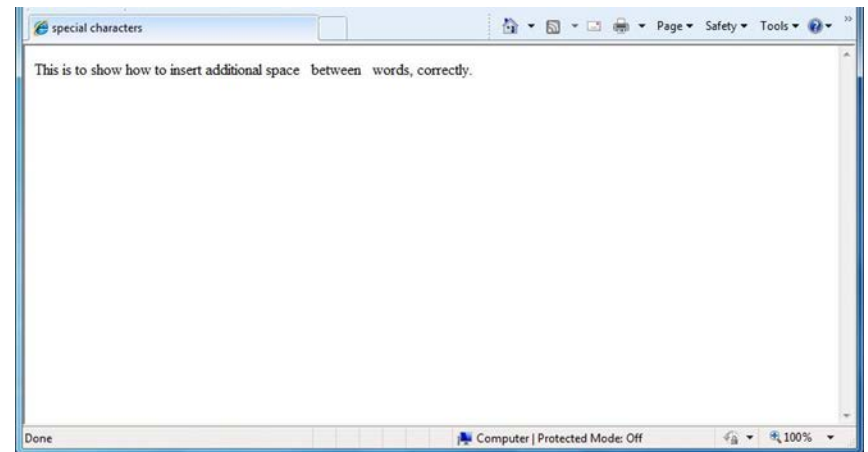
Code in Notepad



A screenshot of a Notepad window titled "space - Notepad". The window contains the following HTML code:

```
<html>
<head>
  <title>special characters</title>
</head>
<body>
  This is to show how to insert additional space &nbsp; between &nbsp; words, correctly.
</body>
</html>
```

Display within web browser



Other handy special characters

Numerical code	Entity code	Symbol	Explanation
<	<	<	Lesser than
>	>	>	Greater than
"	"	“	Quotation marks
©	©	©	Copyright
™	™	™	Trademark
&	&	&	Ampersand
%		%	Percentage
®	®	®	Registered Trade Mark
°	°	°	Degrees
½	½	½	Fraction value of half
¼	¼	¼	Fraction value of quarter
€		€	Euro currency
´	´	‘	Acute
$		\$	Dollar
£	£	£	Pound

Note

- Standards allow use of the numerical character code or the naming system character entity identifier
- Sometimes, depending upon the users default font and the web browser, text with special characters can appear correctly
- To ensure special characters always appear correctly irrespective of fonts available, web browsers and to be cross platform compatible, the correct HTML code should be employed
- Remember, special characters need to be read by screen readers and must be accessible to all users. This means standards should be adhered
- Have you ever come across a web page with strange looking symbols that possibly the designer did not intend?