

# Dreamweaver: Navigation

## Lesson 13: Links

### What is linking?

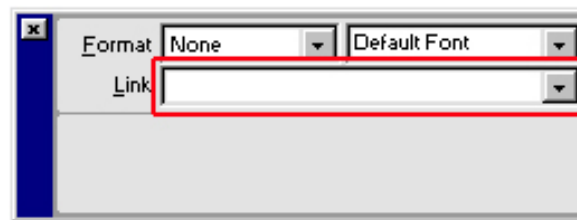
When you read a book, you read it in a linear fashion -- in other words, one page follows the next in a pre-specified order. But web pages are non-linear; every web page has one or more hyperlinks (or "links" for short) that you can click on to view another web page; you choose where you want to go. A link can even take the reader to another part of the same page, which can be useful if the page is very long.

### How do I create a link to another page?

Any element within a web page can be used to establish a link. For example, the navigation menu at the top of this window contains a series of links to other Dreamweaver lessons.

Dreamweaver makes it easy to create a hyperlink:

1. Select the object to which you want to attach a hyperlink. (This could be some text or a graphic.)
2. In the Property Inspector palette, you will see a text entry box called "Link." In that box, type the path to the web page you want to link to.

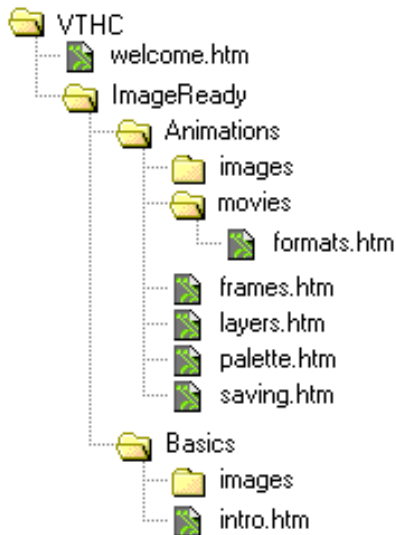


You can use either an absolute or a relative path to link to the desired web page. An **absolute path** is the complete URL of a web page (including "http://"); a **relative path** gives the path from the current document to the desired one.

Some examples may make this clearer. To the left you can see part of the file structure of the Virtual Training Help Center web site. The top folder, **VTHC**, is stored in the top (or root) folder of a web server named iit.bloomu.edu.

Now, let's say that we are editing the file **saving.htm** in the **Animations** folder in the **ImageReady** folder in the **VTHC** folder, and we want to link to some other pages in the site.

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To link to the file **layers.htm**, which is in the same folder as the file we're editing, the absolute link would be

<http://iit.bloomu.edu/VTHC/ImageReady/Animations/layers.htm>

and the relative link would be simply

[layers.htm](#)

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To link to the file **formats.htm** in the **movies** folder in the **Animations** folder, the absolute link would be

<http://iit.bloomu.edu/VTHC/ImageReady/Animations/movies/formats.htm>

and the relative link would be

[movies/formats.htm](#)

(down into the movies folder).

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To link to the file **welcome.htm** in the **VTHC** folder, the absolute link would be

<http://iit.bloomu.edu/VTHC/welcome.htm>

and the relative link would be

[../../welcome.htm](#)

(Each "../" takes you up one folder level.)

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To link to the file **intro.htm** in the **Basics** folder, the absolute link would be

<http://iit.bloomu.edu/VTHC/ImageReady/Basics/intro.htm>

and the relative link would be

(up one level, then into the Basics folder).

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When entering an absolute link, it is important that you begin the link with "http://" because that is how the browser knows that the link is absolute; without that, it is assumed that the link is relative.

Since either method of linking to a page works, you might ask, what's the difference? How do I know when I should use each? The following is an important rule of thumb:


- Use absolute links when you are linking to a page that is not part of your web site.
- Use relative links within your web site. That way, if you move your web site folder to another web server, or put it in a different folder on the same server, the links will still work. If you use absolute links, then when you move the site you will have to re-define every link in it.

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### How do I link to a different section of the same page?

Within a long web page it can be useful to enable the user to navigate to particular sections within the page. For example, users like to return quickly to the top of the page when they reach the bottom.

To link to a section, you must first mark the destination location with a named anchor:

1. Pull down the **Window** menu and select **Objects** to display the Object Palette.
2. Click on the pop-up menu at the top of the Object Palette and select **Invisibles**.
3. Put the blinking insertion bar where you want the anchor to be inserted.
4. Click on the **Named Anchor** icon in the Object Palette . The **Insert Named Anchor** dialog box will appear.
5. Enter a name for the anchor and then click **OK**.



To link to this newly created anchor:

1. Select some text or an image that will serve as the hyperlink.
2. In the Property Inspector, in the text entry box called "Link" type a pound sign (#) followed by the destination anchor name.

# Lesson 14: Rollovers

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## What are rollovers?

Rollovers are text or a graphic that is displayed when the mouse enters a specific area on the screen and hidden when the mouse leaves this area.

Move the mouse over the word **Example** below to see how a rollover looks.

**Example**

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## Why use rollovers?

Text links on web pages are usually underlined, but graphical links have no visual cue to let the reader know they should click there. For this reason, it is a good idea to give users a way to identify clickable objects on a web page. Otherwise, they might not know the link is there!

**Note:** The graphic or text content used in a rollover should convey important cues on the type of information they are linked to. It's important to avoid rollovers that are distracting and/or serve no useful purpose.

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## What resources do I need?

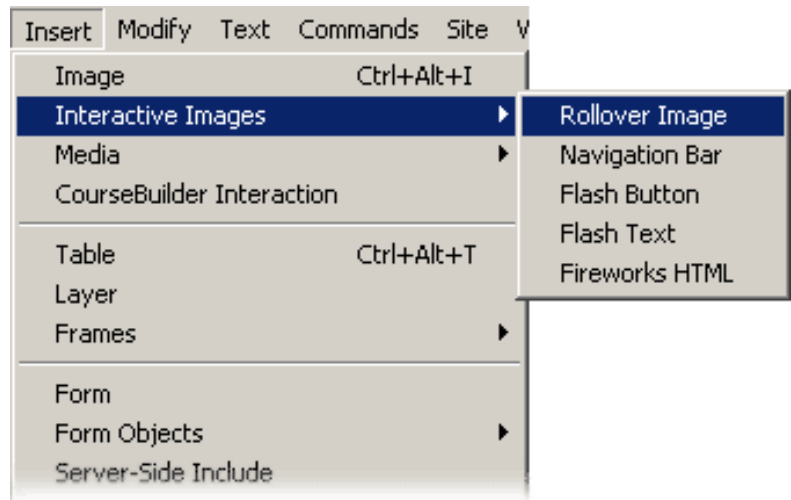
Before creating rollovers in Dreamweaver, you need to prepare two graphics for each rollover item. The first graphic is the original graphic or text that is always displayed on the web page. The second item is the rollover image that is displayed only when the mouse pointer enters this area. Create your original and rollover images beforehand and save them as GIF (Graphic Interchange Format) or JPEG (Joint Photographic Experts Group) files (see the Photoshop lessons for more details). You also need to identify for each rollover item the correct link to jump to when selected.

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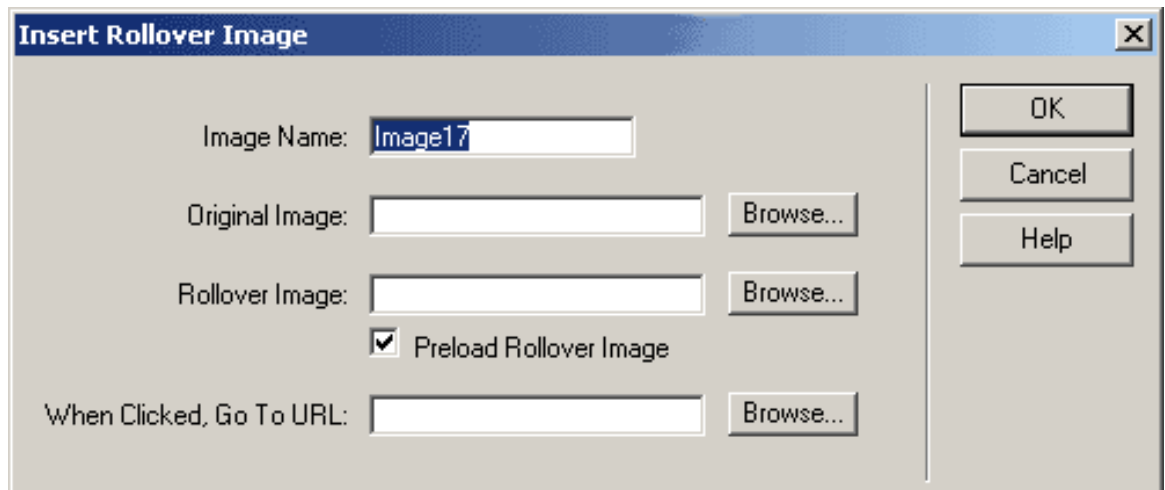
## How do I create a rollover?

To create rollovers in Dreamweaver, make sure all your resources are available, then follow these steps:

1. Position your cursor where you want to place your rollover.
2. Pull down the **Insert** menu, point to **Interactive Images** and select **Rollover Image** from the fly-out menu:



The Insert Rollover Dialog will appear:



3. Type a name for your image in the "Image Name" text box.
4. Click on the **Browse** button to the right of the "Original Image" text box to select the original image. The original image is the graphic or text that will always be displayed when the mouse isn't pointing to it.
5. Click on the **Browse** button to the right of the "Rollover Image" text box to select the rollover image. The rollover image is the graphic or text that will be displayed when the cursor enters the area.
6. Enter the link to the desired location. This can be an absolute link (e.g., <http://iit.bloomu.edu/VTHC/index.htm>) or it can be a relative link (e.g., [../Basics/intro.htm]( ../Basics/intro.htm)) or it can be a link to an anchor (e.g., [#top](#)).
7. Un-check the Preload button if you don't want to preload your rollover images when your page is initially downloaded. This option is always checked by default because although it takes slightly longer to download the page, the rollovers are much more responsive.
8. Click **OK**.

# Lesson 15: Site Maps

## What is a site map?

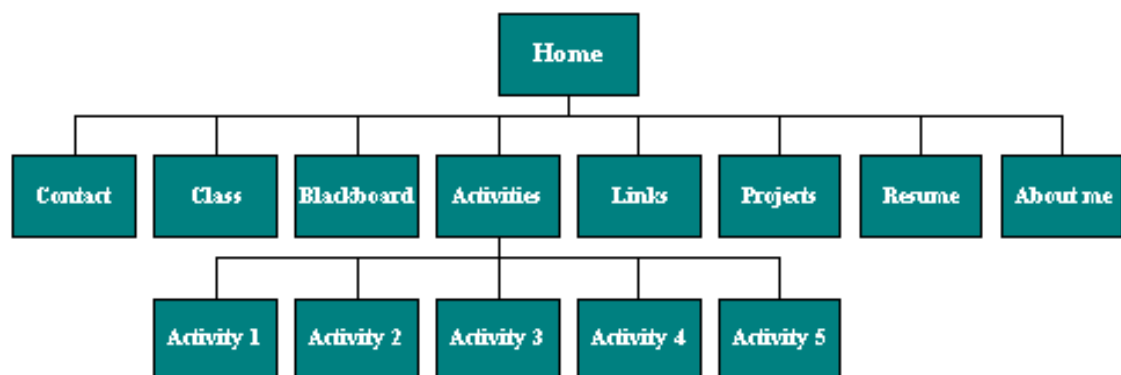
A site map is a graphic that presents an overall view of the structure of the web site. Using the site map, the user may navigate in any direction within the site. The site map may be text- or graphic-based.

A text-based site map could be a table of contents, or an index. If the site is especially simple, you could even just string together a list of the main areas:

[Main Menu](#) | [Knowledge Base](#) | [How To's](#) | [Lab Rules](#) | [Lab Reports](#) | [EPSS](#)

A graphical site map can let you see the site hierarchy at a glance. Sometimes graphical site maps are based on metaphors. For example, a company that sells tableware such as tablecloths, napkins, dishware, and glassware, could have a front page with a picture of a set table. As the user clicks on each type of item, they would be taken to a catalog of that product type.

Here is an example of a simple graphical site map:



## **Where is a site map located?**

A simple site map may be placed on the first page of the web site. A text-based site map could even be at the bottom of every page on your site. A more complicated site map may warrant a page of its own. Where you choose to place your site map, and what type it is, will depend upon what you are trying to achieve.

However, if you want users of the site to be able to move about freely within the site, it is important that the site map always be accessible.

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## **How do I create a site map?**

To create a site map:

1. Sketch out the structure of your web site.
2. Decide whether you want a text-based or graphical site map.
3. Decide where the site map should reside on your site. (On the front page? On a special "site map" page? Or on the bottom of every page?)
4. If you want a graphical site map, create it in a graphics package and save it for the web. Otherwise, just type it in Dreamweaver.
5. Link each element (text or graphic) on the site map to its appropriate web page. (See Lesson 13 for more details on creating links.)
6. Put links elsewhere in the site as necessary, so the user can always easily go to the site map.