

CHAPTER

1

Getting Started with Dreamweaver



This chapter describes the World Wide Web, introduces the different types of information you can put on a Web site, and shows you how to start Dreamweaver.

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Introduction to the World Wide Web

You can use Dreamweaver to create and publish pages on the World Wide Web.

World Wide Web

The *World Wide Web* (Web) is a global collection of documents located on Internet-connected computers. You can access the Web by using a Web browser. Web pages are connected to one another by hyperlinks that you can click.

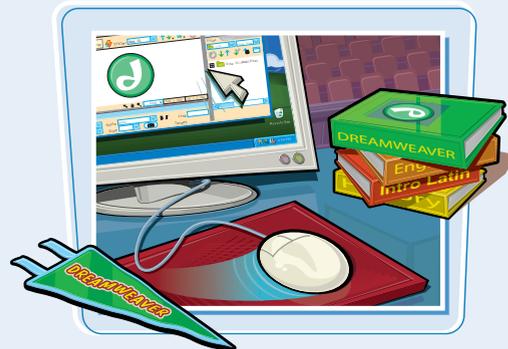


Web Site

A *Web site* is a collection of linked Web pages stored on a Web server. Most Web sites have a *home page* that describes the information located on the Web site and provides a place where people can start their exploration of the Web site. The pages of a good Web site are intuitively organized and have a common theme.

Dreamweaver

Dreamweaver is a program that enables you to create Web pages with hyperlinks, text, images, and multimedia. You can create your Web pages on your computer and then use Dreamweaver to transfer the finished files to a Web server where others can view them on the Web.



HTML

Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) is the formatting language used to create Web pages. You can use Dreamweaver to create Web pages without knowing HTML because Dreamweaver writes the HTML for you behind the scenes.

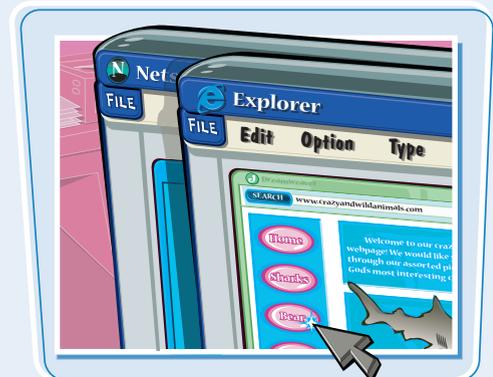


Web Server

A *Web server* is a computer that is connected to the Internet and has software that serves Web pages to visitors. Each Web page that you view in a Web browser on the World Wide Web resides on a Web server somewhere on the Internet. When you are ready to publish your pages on the Web, you can use Dreamweaver to transfer your files to a Web server.

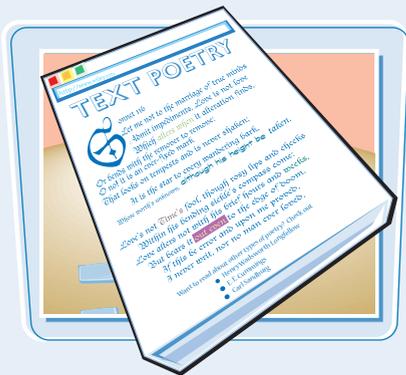
Web Browser

A *Web browser* is a program that can download Web documents from the Internet, interpret HTML, and then display the Web page text and any associated images and multimedia. Two popular Web browsers are Microsoft Internet Explorer and Netscape Navigator.



Parts of a Web Page

You can communicate your message on the Web in a variety of ways. The following are some of the common elements that appear on Web pages.



Text

Text is the simplest type of content that you can publish on the Web. Dreamweaver enables you to change the size, color, and font of the text on your Web page and to organize it into paragraphs, headings, and lists. Perhaps the best thing about text is that practically everyone can view it, no matter what type of Web browser or Internet connection a person may have, and it downloads very quickly.

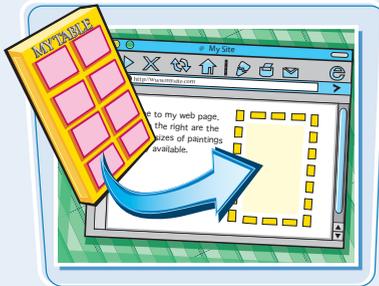
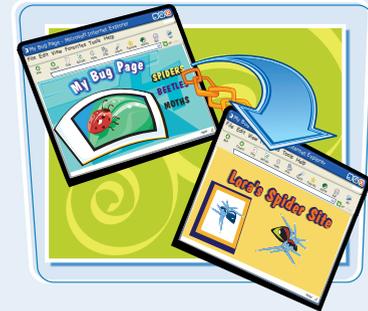
Images

For your Web site, you can take photos with a digital camera, and you can scan drawings, logos, or other images for the Web by using a scanner. You can also create and edit images in a graphics program, such as Adobe Photoshop or Macromedia Fireworks, and then place them on Web pages with Dreamweaver.



Hyperlinks

Usually called a *link*, a *hyperlink* is text or an image that has been associated with another file. You can open the other file in a Web browser by clicking the hyperlink. Although hyperlinks usually link to other Web pages or other Web sites, they can also link to other locations on the same page or to other types of files.



Tables

Although tables organize information in columns and rows on your Web page, you can use them for much more than just organizing data. Tables provide one of the best ways to create complex Web designs. By turning off the borders of a table and setting it to span an entire page, you can use the table to organize the entire layout of the page. See Chapter 9 for more information about tables.

Forms

Forms reverse the information flow on Web sites, thus enabling visitors to your Web site to send information back to you. With Dreamweaver, you can create forms that include text fields, drop-down menus, radio buttons, and other elements.

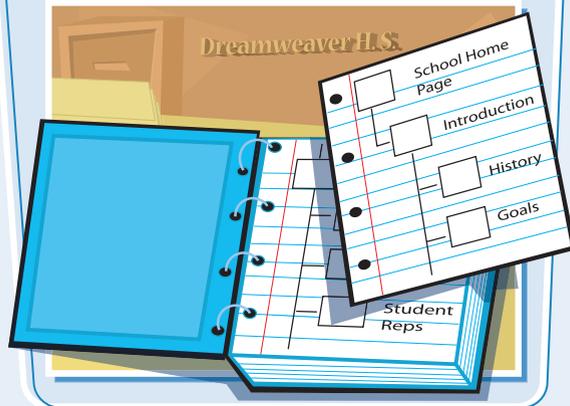
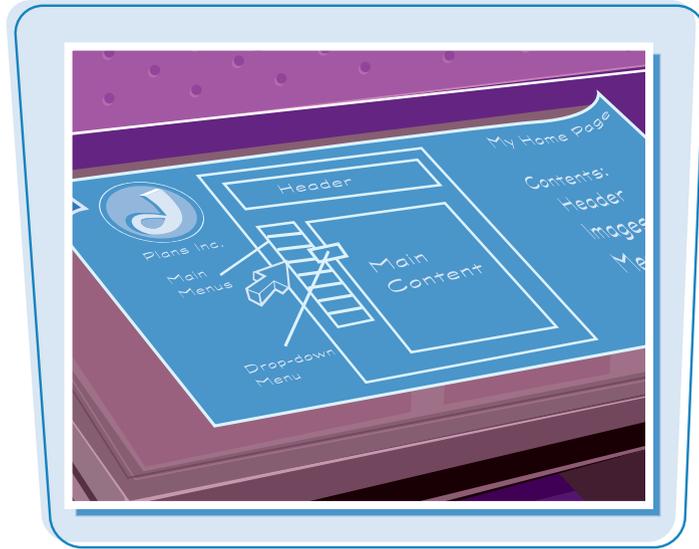


Frames

In a framed Web site, the Web browser window is divided into several rectangular frames, and a different Web page loads into each frame. Users can scroll through content in each frame, independently of the content in the other frames. Dreamweaver offers visual tools for building frame-based Web sites.

Plan Your Web Site

Carefully planning your pages before you build them can help to ensure that your finished Web site looks great and is well organized. Before you start building your Web site, take a little time to organize your ideas and gather the materials that you will need.

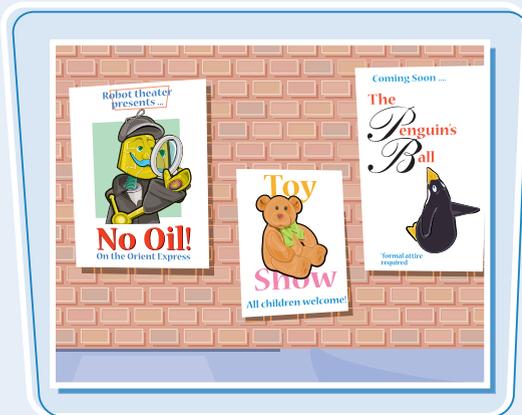


Organize Your Ideas

Build your Web site on paper before you start building it in Dreamweaver. Sketching out a Web site map, with rectangles representing Web pages and arrows representing links, can help you to visualize the size and scope of your project. Use sticky notes if you want to move pages around as you plan your Web site.

Gather Your Content

Before you start building your Web site, gather all of the elements that you want to use. This process may require writing text, taking photos, and designing graphics. It can also involve producing multimedia content, such as audio and video files. Gathering all of your material together in the beginning makes it easier for you to organize your Web site once you start building it in Dreamweaver.

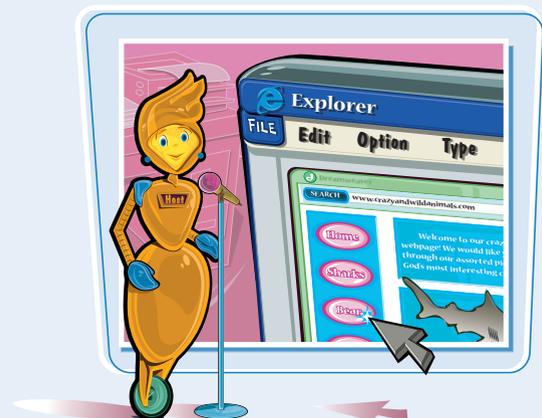


Define Your Audience

Identifying your target audience can help you to decide what kind of content to offer on your Web site. For example, you may create a very different design for small children than for adults. It is important to know whether visitors are using the latest Web browser technology and how fast they can view advanced features, such as multimedia.

Host Your Finished Web Site

To make your finished Web site accessible on the Web, you need to store, or *host*, it on a Web server. Most people have their Web sites hosted on a Web server at a commercial Internet service provider (ISP) or at their company or university.



Start Dreamweaver on a PC

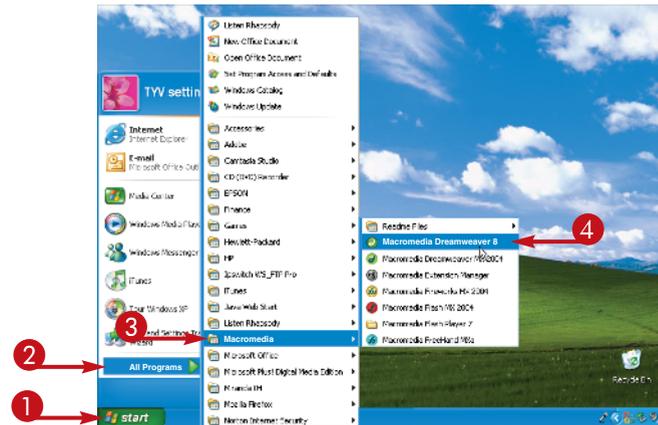
You can start Dreamweaver on a PC and begin building pages that you can publish on the Web. You first need to purchase and install Dreamweaver if you do not have it already.



Start Dreamweaver on a PC

- 1 Click **Start**.
- 2 Click **All Programs**.
- 3 Click **Macromedia**.
- 4 Click **Macromedia Dreamweaver 8**.

Note: Your path to the Dreamweaver application may be different, depending on how you installed your software and your operating system.



The Dreamweaver Start screen appears.



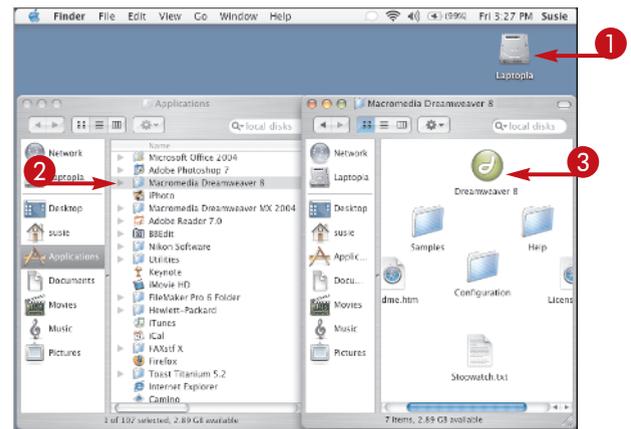
You can start Dreamweaver on a Macintosh and begin building pages that you can publish on the Web. You first need to purchase and install Dreamweaver if you do not have it already.



Start Dreamweaver on a Macintosh

- 1 Double-click your hard drive.
- 2 Double-click the **Macromedia Dreamweaver 8** folder (📁).
- 3 Double-click the **Dreamweaver 8** icon (📎).

Note: The exact location of the Dreamweaver folder depends on how you installed your software.



The Dreamweaver Start screen appears.



Tour the Dreamweaver Interface on a PC

Dreamweaver 8 on a PC features a variety of windows, panels, and inspectors.

Toolbar

Contains shortcuts to preview and display features, and a text field where you can specify the title of a page.

Properties Inspector

Used to display and edit attributes of any element selected in the Document window.

Panels

Windows that provide access to the Design, Code, Application, Tag, Files, Layers, and History panels.

Document Window

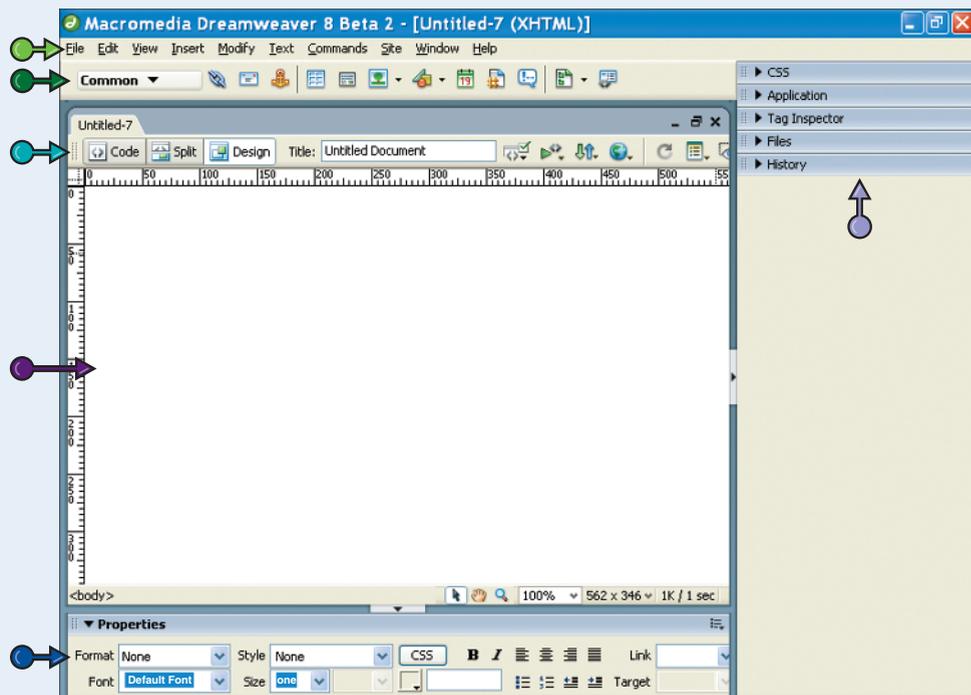
The main workspace where you insert and arrange the text, images, and other elements of your Web page.

Menus

Contain the commands for using Dreamweaver. Many of these commands are duplicated within the windows, panels, and inspectors of Dreamweaver.

Insert Bar

Used to implement page elements and technology. There are several different Insert bars that you can select, depending on the type of element you want to insert in your page.



Dreamweaver 8 on a Macintosh features a variety of windows, panels, and inspectors.

Document Window

The main workspace where you insert and arrange the text, images, and other elements of your Web page.

Panels

Windows that provide access to the Design, Code, Application, Files, Advanced Layout, Answers, and History panels.

Properties Inspector

Used to display and edit attributes of any element selected in the Document window.

Toolbar

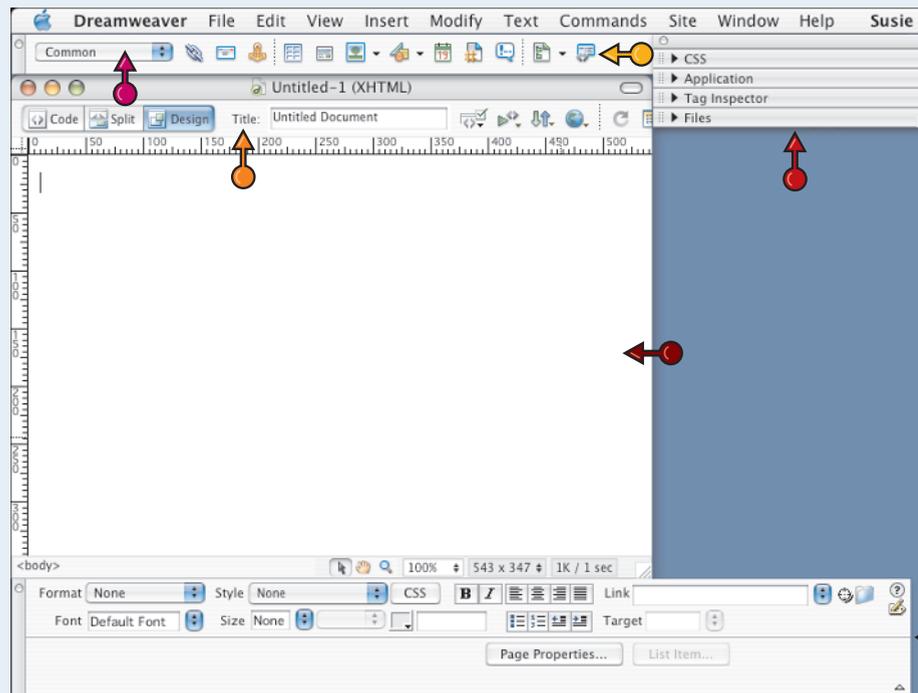
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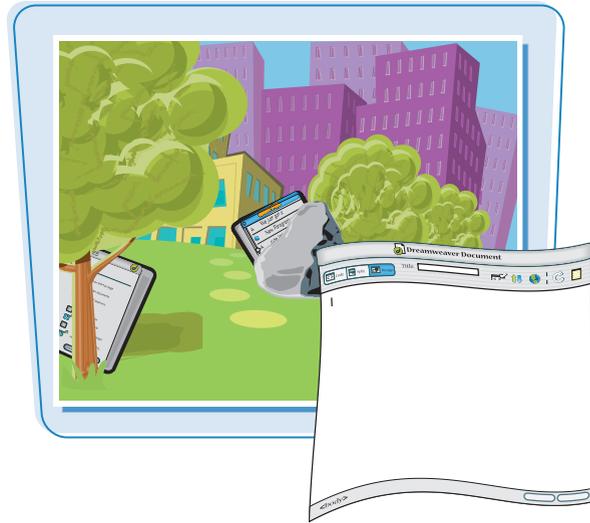
Insert Bar

Used to implement page elements and technology. There are several different Insert bars that you can select, depending on the type of element you want to insert in your page.



Show or Hide a Window

You can show or hide accessory windows, also called panels and inspectors, by using commands in the Window menu.



Show or Hide a Window

- 1 Click **Window**.
- 2 Click the window that you want to open.

This example opens the Properties window.

- A next to a window name indicates that the window is open.



- Dreamweaver displays the window.

To hide a window, click **Window** and then click the check-marked () window name.

You can click **Window** and then click **Hide Panels** to hide everything except the Document window and toolbar.



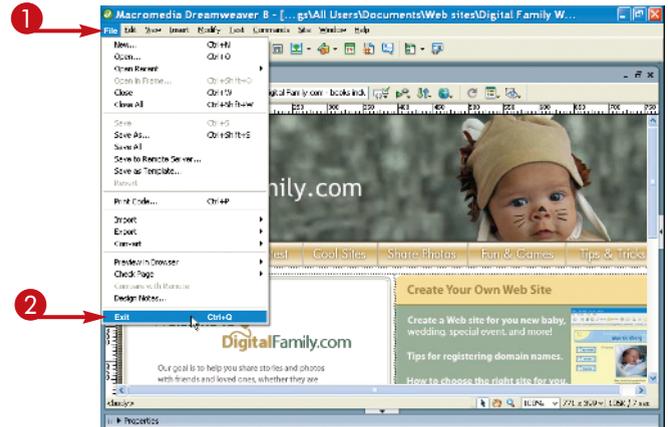
You can exit Dreamweaver to close the program.

You should always exit Dreamweaver and all other programs before turning off your computer.



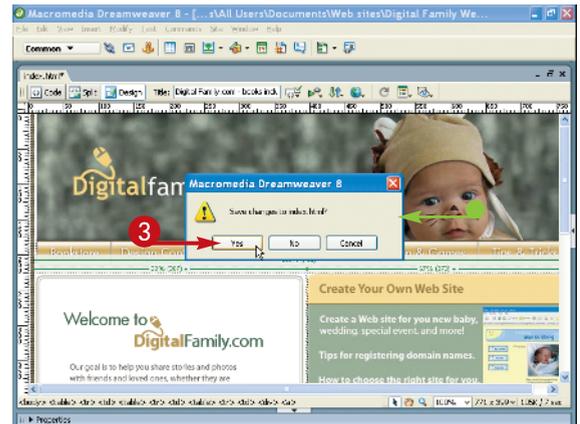
Exit Dreamweaver

- 1 Click **File**.
- 2 Click **Exit (Quit)**.



- Before closing, Dreamweaver alerts you to save any open documents that have unsaved changes.

- 3 Click **Yes**.
Dreamweaver exits.



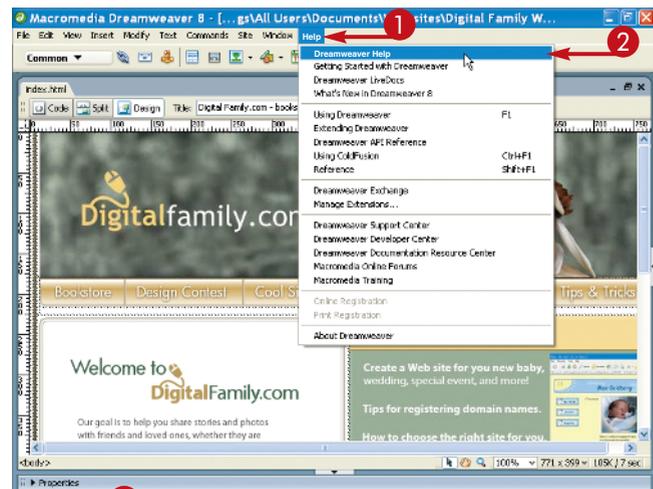
You can use the help tools that are built into Dreamweaver to get answers to your questions or to learn techniques that you do not know.



Get Help

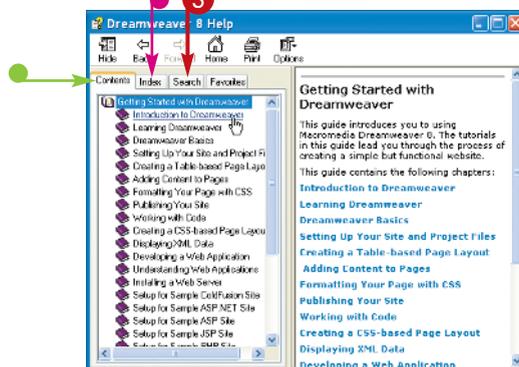
- 1 Click **Help**.
- 2 Click **Dreamweaver Help**.

You can also click the **Help** icon (🔍) in the Properties inspector.



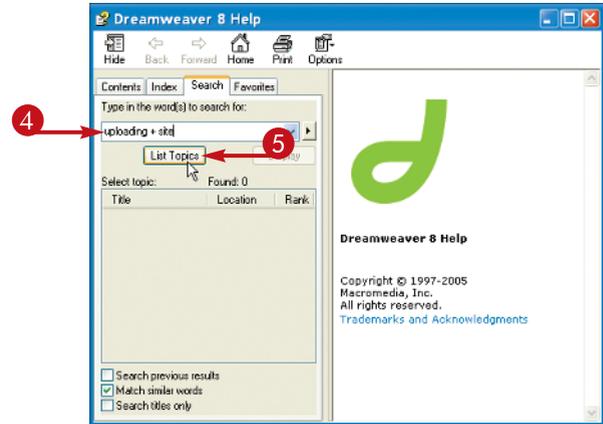
The Using Dreamweaver help page opens.

- You can click the **Contents** tab to scroll and select available Help topics.
- You can click the **Index** tab to access a list of topics.
- 3 Click the **Search** tab to search for a specific topic.



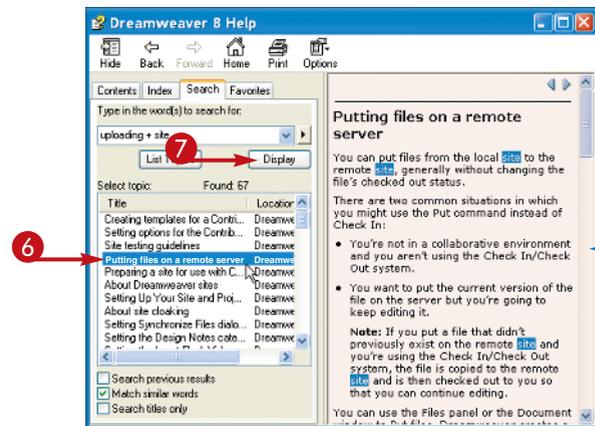
The Search window appears.

- 4 Type one or more keywords, separating multiple keywords with a plus sign (+) for your search.
- 5 Click **List Topics**.



A list of topics appears.

- 6 Click a topic from the search result list.
- 7 Click **Display**.
- Information appears on your topic.



TIP

Are there different ways of opening the Help tools and other options in Dreamweaver?

Very often, yes. For example, you may be able to access a command, such as Modify Page Properties, by using either a menu or the Properties inspector. You can also use the Split or Code options to view and edit the HTML code directly, if you know how to write HTML.

