

Zero to Hero Web Dev Checklist

This checklist is designed for absolute beginners ready to transition from reading theory to writing code. It eliminates the feeling of overwhelm by providing a structured, linear path to building a first functional website. Use this list to track progress from the initial setup through to the launch of a first project.

Phase 1: Setting the Stage

- Select a modern web browser like Chrome or Firefox for robust debugging capabilities.
- Download and install Visual Studio Code as the primary text editor.
- Install the "Live Server" extension in VS Code to view changes in real-time.
- Create a dedicated folder on the computer for all web development projects.
- Verify that file extensions (like .html and .css) are visible in the system's file explorer.

Phase 2: Mastering the Fundamentals

- Review the basics of semantic HTML tags to understand page structure.
- Write a simple HTML file containing a header, a paragraph, and an image.
- Link a CSS stylesheet to the HTML file to begin styling the content.
- Experiment with the CSS "Box Model" by adjusting margins, borders, and padding.
- Write a basic JavaScript function, such as an alert or a console log, to test interactivity.
- Validate the HTML code using an online validator to ensure there are no syntax errors.

Phase 3: Building the First Project

- Sketch a rough wireframe of the website layout on paper before writing code.
- Set up the index.html file with the correct boilerplate structure.
- Build the navigation bar and footer first to establish the site's frame.
- Apply responsive styles using media queries so the site looks good on mobile devices.
- Open the browser's Developer Tools to inspect elements and fix any layout alignment issues.
- Check the console for any JavaScript errors that might prevent interactivity.

Phase 4: Moving Forward

- Create a GitHub account to start learning about version control.
- Commit the first project code to a new GitHub repository.
- Bookmark three reliable documentation sites, such as MDN Web Docs, for future reference.
- Join one online community or forum to ask questions and connect with peers.
- Schedule 30 minutes of coding practice for the next day to build a consistent habit.