

page. A relative link doesn't include the domain name of the server. Here's an example of what the code looks like when you create a relative link:

```
<A HREF="staff/boss.html">The boss</A>
```

If you link to a page on a different Web site, you want to create an *absolute link*. An absolute link does include the full Internet address of the other site. Here's an example of the code behind an absolute link:

```
<A HREF="http://www.janinewarner.com/books">Janine's  
Books</A>
```

If all that HREF code stuff looks like Greek to you, don't worry. The following section shows you how Dreamweaver makes it possible for you to set links without even knowing what the code means.

Linking pages within your Web site

Linking from one page to another page in your Web site — known as an *internal link* — is easy. The most important thing to remember is to save your pages in the folders that you want to keep them in before you start setting links and make sure that all your files are in the root folder, as described in the section "Defining a site," earlier in this chapter.

Here's how you create an internal link:

1. In Dreamweaver, open the page on which you want to create a link.
2. Select the text or image that you want to serve as the link (meaning the text or image that will open the new page when a user clicks it).

Alternatively, you can double-click the image or text to select it.

3. Click the folder icon to the right of the Link text box in the Properties inspector.

The Select File dialog box opens.

4. Select the page that you want your image or text to link to, and then click the Select button.

The link is automatically set and the dialog box closes. If you haven't already saved your page, a message box opens, explaining that you can create a relative link only after you save the page. Always save the page you're working on before you set links.



If the page is part of a frameset, use the Target field in the Properties inspector to specify which frame the linked page opens into. (You find out more about setting links in frames in Chapter 7.)

Setting links to named anchors within a page

If you like to create really long pages, using anchor links to break up navigation within the page is a good idea. A *named anchor link*, often called a *jump link*, enables you to set a link to a specific part of a Web page. You can use a named anchor to link from an image or text string on one page to another place on the same page, or to link from one page to a specific part of another page. To create a named anchor link, you first insert a named anchor in the place that you want to link to, and then use that anchor to direct the browser to that specific part of the page when a viewer follows the link.

Suppose that you want to set a link from the word *Convertible* at the top of a page to a section lower on the page that starts with the headline *Convertible Sports Cars*. You first insert a named anchor at the *Convertible Sports Cars* headline. Then you link the word *Convertible* from the top of the page to that anchor.

To insert a named anchor and set a link to it, follow these steps:

1. **Open the page on which you want to insert the named anchor.**
2. **Place your cursor next to the word or image that you want to link to on the page.**

You don't need to select the word or image; you just need a reference point that displays when the link is selected. For this example, I placed the cursor to the left of the headline *Convertible Sports Cars*.

3. **Choose Insert > Named Anchor.**

The Insert Named Anchor dialog box appears.

4. **Enter a name for the anchor.**

You can name anchors anything you want (as long as you don't use spaces or special characters). Just make sure that you use a different name for each anchor on the same page. Then be sure that you remember what you called the anchor, because you have to type the anchor name to set the link. (Unlike other Web design programs, Dreamweaver doesn't automatically enter the anchor name.) In this example, I chose *convertible* as the anchor name because it's easy for me to remember.

5. **Click OK.**

The dialog box closes, and a small anchor icon appears on the page where you inserted the anchor name. You can move an anchor name by clicking the anchor icon and dragging it to another location on the page.

If you're curious about what this named anchor looks like in HTML, here's the code that appears before the headline in my example:

```
<A NAME="convertible"></A>
```

6. To set a link to the named anchor location, select the text or image that you want to link from.

You can link to a named anchor from anywhere else on the same page or from another page. In my example, I linked from the word *Convertible* that appears at the top of the page to the anchor I made next to the headline.

7. In the Properties inspector, type the pound sign (#) followed by the anchor name.

You can also select the text and drag a line from the Point to File icon (next to the Link text box) to the anchor icon. The anchor name automatically appears in the Link box, saving you from typing the name again.

In my example, I typed **#convertible** in the Link text box. The HTML code for this line looks like this:

```
<A HREF="#convertible">convertible</A>
```

If you wanted to link to an anchor named *convertible* on another page with the filename *coolcars.html*, you type **coolcars.html#convertible** in the Link text box.

Linking to pages outside your Web site

Linking to a page on another Web site — called an *external link* — is even easier than linking to an internal link. All you need is the URL of the page to which you want to link, and you're most of the way there.

To create an external link, follow these steps:

1. In Dreamweaver, open the page from which you want to link.
2. Select the text or image that you want to act as a link.
3. In the Link text box in the Properties inspector, type the URL of the page you want your text or image to link to (see Figure 2-11).

The link is automatically set.



Although you don't have to type the `http://` at the beginning of a Web site address to get to a site in most browsers, you need to use the full URL, including the `http://` when you create an external link. Otherwise, the browser may think that the `www.whatever.com` is the name of a folder on your Web server instead of an external site address and results in a 404, Page Not Found Error. (See Figure 2-11 for an example of how you set a link to the Macromedia Web site, using its full URL.)