



Lesson #31

Tag Parameters & Options

By

Lynette Chandler
Tech Based Training

<http://TechBasedTraining.com/>

**NOTICE: You Do NOT Have the Right
to Reprint or Resell this Report!**

You Also MAY NOT Give Away, Sell or Share the Content Herein

If you obtained this report from anywhere other than **Tech Based Training.com** , you have a pirated copy.

Help stop internet piracy by letting me know. Send email to
customerservice@techbasedsupport.com

© 2010 Copyright Lynette Chandler

Legal Disclaimer: Keeping things simple here, I have to say that I cannot promise you success. I can give you direction and advice based on my experiences and good internet marketing practices. What you do with this information is up to you. As a Tech Based Training member you agree to not hold me responsible for your results.

Introduction

While we were building our theme, I'd often provide you with the exact code so all you had to do was copy and paste. What I have yet to mention to you, is many of these tags have optional parameters you can use to further configure the way the information is displayed.

This gives you greater flexibility to make the site display only the information you want to and in some cases, how you want. Let's explore what these parameters are and how you'd use them.

Wp_list_pages Parameters

One tag where you'd most likely need to use parameters is the `wp_list_pages` tag. If you have many Pages in your Sandbox blog, you may find that the theme we are building may not display right for you. The navigation bar at the top of the theme may be out of place or too crowded with links.

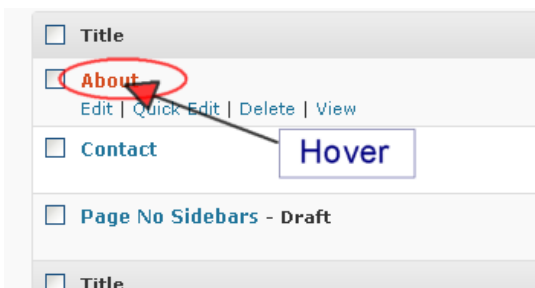
If you have only a handful of Pages, like I do, you won't see this as a problem. However, when you install it on your clients' site that has many Pages that will stick out. So what can you do?

That depends very much on what Pages you or your client wants to display in the navigation at the top. Because spacing for horizontal navigational links is at such a premium, you really want to only display the Pages that truly matter and leave out Pages like privacy policies and disclaimers that are more appropriately displayed in the footer.

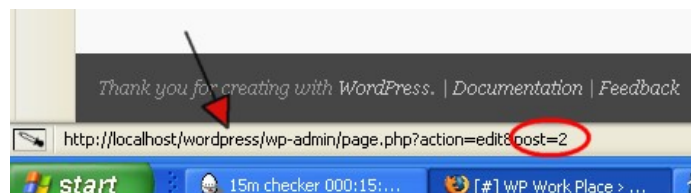
Once you know exactly which Pages you want to be linked in the Navigation, you need to find out the ID of those Pages. If you don't already know how to do that, here's how. When logged in as admin to the WordPress site you're working on, navigate to Pages to list all the Pages currently in the site.



Find one of the Pages you wish to be displayed in the navigation, hover your mouse over the name of the Page. Do not click on it.



When your mouse is above the Page name, look to the bottom of your browser. In the status bar, you should see a URL like this. If you do not see the status bar on your screen, make sure the browser is maximized.



Do you see where the red circle is in the screen shot above? It shows post=2 the number 2 is your Page ID. Each Page and post in WordPress has it's own unique ID. Find all ID's of the Pages you'd like to be on your navigation bar, write them down somewhere.

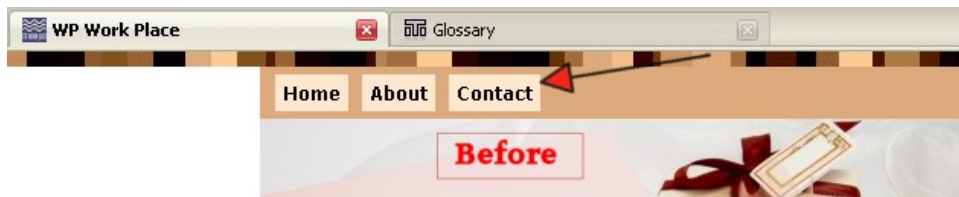
Next, open PsPad. Open an FTP connection to your Sandbox blog if its on your web host. Navigate to the theme folder, open header.php. In our theme, the code is located at the end of the header.php file.

```
20      <input type="submit" name="submit" value="Go" id="searchbutton" />
21    </form>
22  </div>
23
24  <ul>
25    <li><a href="<?php bloginfo('url') . '?'>">Home</a></li>
26    <?php wp_list_pages('title_li='; ?>
27  </ul>
28  </div>
```

Next, simply add the following code to the wp_list_pages tag. Like this – the highlighted part is what you add.

```
<?php wp_list_pages('title_li=&include=2'); ?>
```

You should notice if you include=2 that your navigation only displays one link. In my case, Page #2 is the About Page. Your Page #2 may be something totally different.



What if you want to include more Pages? Simple. Just put a comma and enter the next Page ID. Repeat. Like this.

```
<?php wp_list_pages('title_li=&include=2,5,10'); ?>
```

They do not have to be in any order. You can also work backwards. Sometimes there are more Pages you want to include than there are to exclude. Instead of using include, you can use exclude. This tells WordPress to display all Pages except the ones you listed under exclude. Example.

```
<?php wp_list_pages('title_li=&exclude=4,1'); ?>
```

Title_li?

From the code above, you have probably noticed that there is already a parameter (sometimes also referred to as arguments) in it. That's the title_li.

```
<?php wp_list_pages('title_li=&include=2'); ?>
```

title_li= is a parameter to tell WordPress not to display the title 'Pages' before it lists out the Pages. Confused? Try removing title_li= from your theme code. Save and refresh your blog. What do you see?



You should see an additional block of text named 'Pages' in the navigation. That's the title. In some cases like the sidebar you may actually want the title to be displayed so you can clearly define each block of links. In this case where you're building navigational links, that only confuses and messes up your design. So you hide it using the title_li= parameter.

What Else?

The wp_list_pages tag is pretty well developed there are many ways you can further customize the output. For example, you can choose to limit the depth of

links, this is especially true if you have parent and child Pages. You can sort the Pages by date ID, date posted or by Page Order that is defined by you. You can change the name of the Title instead of 'Pages' or you can even change what comes before and after each link.

How do I know this? Because it's explained in the [Codex for wp_list_pages](#). I understand that sometimes that's rather difficult to understand. That codex page however is pretty clear. Still, let us walk through a few things here just so you have a better understanding how to read the Codex.

If a tag has any parameters, it should be shown in a list like this.

Default Usage

```
$defaults = array(
    'depth'      => 0,
    'show_date'  => '',
    'date_format' => get_option('date_format'),
    'child_of'   => 0,
    'exclude'    => '',
    'title_li'   => __('Pages'),
    'echo'       => 1,
    'authors'    => '',
    'sort_column' => 'menu_order, post_title',
    'link_before' => '',
    'link_after'  => '',
    'exclude_tree' => '' );
```

If you scroll further down, it'll also explain how to use those 'arrays' so I won't go through them again here. But what if you want to use something that doesn't have a code example? Easy. Let's say we want to use the `link_before` and `link_after` parameters.

All you need to do is type `& ←` very important! `link_before=` enter the html code you want to enter before the Page link and then `&link_after=` enter the html code you want after the Page link. Like this.

```
<?php
wp_list_pages('title_li=&include=2&link_before=<p
>&link_after=</p>'); ?>
```

That tells WordPress to use paragraphs to separate each link instead of the normal lists. So the effect is this on the theme.



And when you check it using Firebug, you'll see that the About link is changed to <p> (paragraphs). Of course that's not what we want in this theme because it messes up the design. But that's a good illustration and I hope you got the point of it.

Can You...

You are probably wondering if the parameters have to be in any special order – the answer is no. But you must always remember to add the ampersand in front of the parameter you want to use if you're adding on. The only time you don't need the ampersand is the first parameter like the title_li in our theme's case. The ampersand (&) simply tells WordPress that you're done with one parameter, here's the starting of the next. Also, make very sure that you add your parameters within the brackets and apostrophes.

Can you use these parameters on all WordPress template tags? No. Every WordPress template tag has its own set of parameters. The good news is, WordPress developers try to keep a standard. So very often, you can use similar parameters like title_li= works for the wp_list_categories tag too. In fact, they share many parameters but not all.

Some parameters like [the_author tag](#) don't have any parameters which means you can only use it as is e.g.

```
<?php the_author(); ?>
```


Your best bet is to check the Codex regularly. As time goes by, the developers may add parameters to the template tag which is always good news for us theme developers and designers.

Next Lesson...

We'll be talking about how you're going to maintain long term, all those blogs you set up and how to use that as an opportunity to provide extra services to secure future income. See you next week.

Lynette Chandler

Lynette Chandler

Tech Based Training