



Lesson #8

Developing footer.php

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Before We Continue... More About Dummy Text

At the end of last week's lesson, there was a short blurb about dummy text. The goobly gook text that you use to fill up the space so you know what you're doing. The resource I suggested is a good one to generate dummy text. But text aside, remember that on a regular blog or web site, people also organize their content into bullet points, they add content and link to other web sites. In order to make sure your theme will be as representative as possible, you should also format some of your dummy blog post that way.

Here's what you do.

Create a dummy post with pictures.

1. Go to Lipsum.com to generate some dummy text. In your sandbox blog, create a new post, paste the text in it.
2. Find a picture. Any picture. If you're at a loss where to get one, go to SXC.hu. Resize it. Make it small. upload the photo and insert it into the post.
3. Do steps one and two 4 times. Once, by inserting the image then selecting left align, then right align, after that center align and finally no alignment – If you are familiar with HTML, do not hand code the alignment. Use the left align selection in WordPress' media manager, the box that pops up when you upload a picture.

Create a dummy post with lists.

1. Write a quick list e.g. one, two, three, four, each on a separate line
2. From the WYSIWIG editor, make this short list into an ordered list – ordered lists are bullet points with numbers.

3. Create another list, make this second one into an unordered list.

Create a dummy post with links in it.

1. Create yet another new post.
2. Find a web site to link to Google.com maybe. It doesn't matter. This is only for design purposes.

This should give you a good set of posts that represents some of the more common formatting people will put in their posts. As we develop the theme, you may find that some of these things are 'not working'. For example, your left align and right align of images may not work. Or the bullet points are not right. Do not panic. In time we will get to fixing up the styling in the style sheets.

Now that we have that out of the way, let's continue our development.

footer.php

The good news is, there's generally not much to be done in the footers. In our Blog Theme Bootcamp template, the footer is intentionally kept simple.

If you haven't already done it, go start up your server and PsPad. If you are developing on your web host, connect to your sandbox blog via FTP from PsPad.

In PsPad, navigate to the theme folder, then open up footer.php

You will see some static copyright text and a link back to us. You can add any HTML in there. For example, if your client does not object, you may want to add "Web site developed by: Your company name" and link to your web site.

For this exercise, we want to add the blog name and change the wording a little bit. You could simply type the blog name in here. But a better way would be to use the `bloginfo('name')` tag. This way, when the client edits their blog name, the changes are reflected here also.

Right after the year 2008, hit your space bar once, then paste this piece of code.

```
<?php bloginfo('name') ?>
```

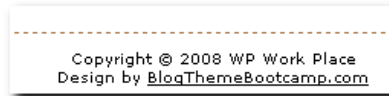
Open your browser, visit your sandbox blog. If you've already opened the blog, refresh the screen. Look at the bottom of the page, you should see the name of the blog appear after the year. Like this.



Adjustment. The footer now looks a bit strange to me. So what we'll do next is to push the Blog Theme Bootcamp link to the next line and add "Design by" text. Just some simple HTML. Right after the bloginfo code, outside the php tags, I will add a line break and "Design by" like this.

```
<p>Copyright &copy; 2008 <?php  
bloginfo('name') ?><br />  
Design by <a  
href="#">BlogThemeBootcamp.com</a></p>
```

Go to your browser, refresh the page. It should look like this.



Much better.

That's it. Were you expecting more?

There could be. The truth is, footers can be complex, depending on the original template design and also depending on what you, the theme developer wants to add. If you wish, you can add other WordPress tags here like:

- `wp_list_pages()` - which will list all the Pages
- `wp_list_categories()` - which will list all the categories

- `wp_list_bookmarks()` - used to list all the blog roll links
- and many other WordPress tags you can find in the [Codex](#). By the way, if I haven't told you, keep that link in your bookmarks. It is like a template tag bible.

Most clients, want a link to their privacy policy, links to support, links to the contact page, about page or general stuff like that. How you handle that is up to you.

You could create the privacy policy, contact page, terms of use page inside WordPress using Pages and then use the `wp_list_pages()` tag to display in the footer.

Or, you could use regular HTML to hard code that in. This is perhaps most flexible but expect to be called upon regularly when they want to update this area.

For the bootcamp purpose, we are going to keep the footer really simple because we don't know yet what project you will apply the theme to. [Here is this lesson's theme package](#). If you run into trouble, download to compare my version and yours. And that wraps up this lesson.

Homework!

1. Add the bloginfo('name') tag to your footer.
2. Create or format dummy posts.
3. Optional – go ahead and try adding other WordPress tags to the footer to see how they work. Just so you know, you will probably find the design is 'messed up'. That's because the template was not designed to support lists and other data. If you are savvy with CSS, you can easily fix this.

Coming Up Next ...

Marching forward to sidebar.php

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