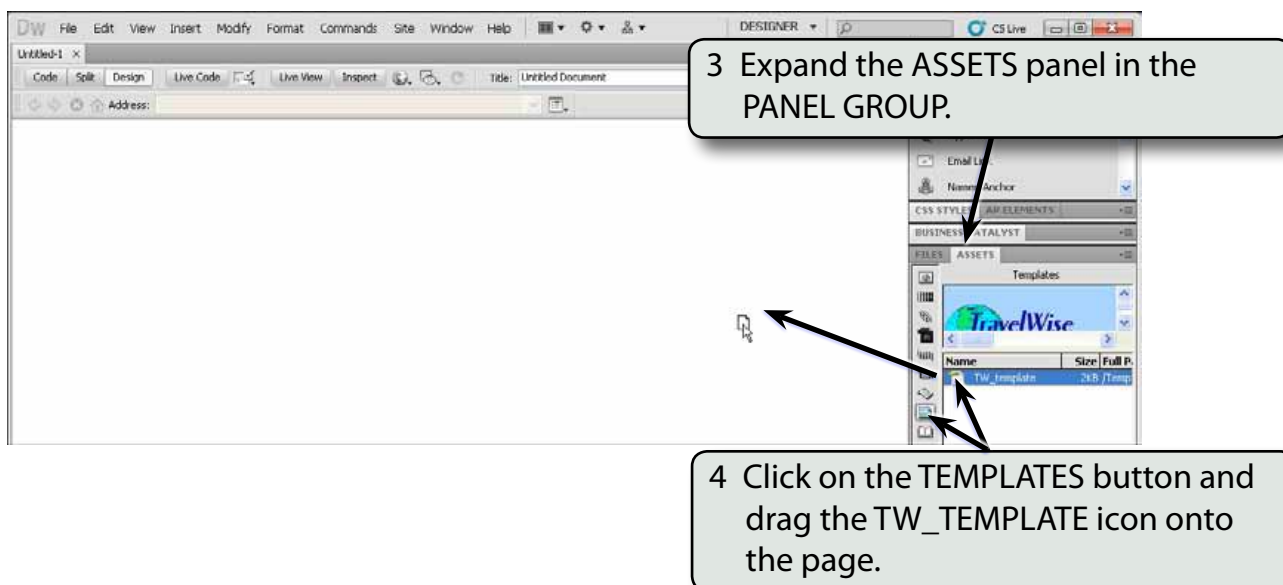# Creating Forms

Forms allow information to be obtained from users of a web site. The ability for someone to purchase items over the internet or receive information from internet users has become a standard feature in many web sites. In order to do this, a FORM needs to be created. Creating an interactive form is a two-part process. First you layout the form's objects (called fields) and then you link the objects to a Common Gateway Interface (CGI) script, which has to be done in consultation with an Internet Service Provider.

In this chapter you will create a form for the TravelWise Travel Agency.

Starting the Page

The form will use the template that was created in the last chapter.

1   Load DreamWeaver, or close the current page and start a NEW HTML page.

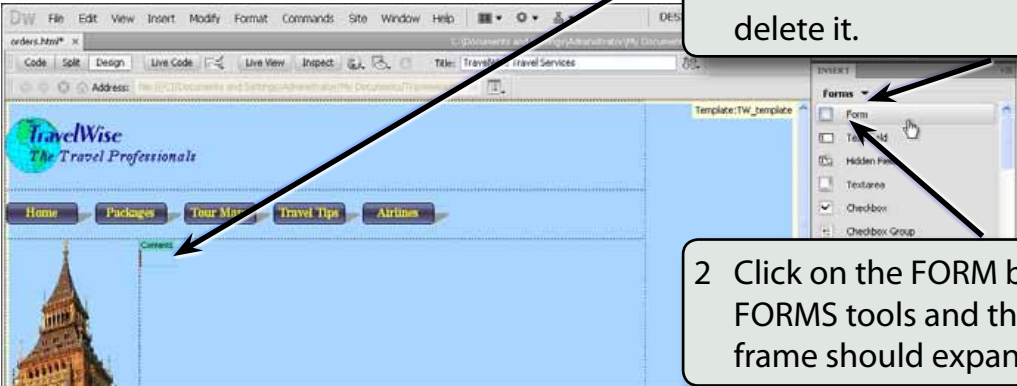2   Set the FILES panel to your TRAVELWISE site and the screen should be set to DESIGNER workspace.

3   Expand the ASSETS panel in the PANEL GROUP.

4   Click on the TEMPLATES button and drag the TW_TEMPLATE icon onto the page.

NOTE: Dragging the template from the ASSETS panel onto the page is another way of applying a template to a page.

5   Save the page as:

Orders or Orders.html

Inserting the Form Tag

When creating a form you must tell the program that a form is required that will be asking for information from the user. All the details within a form MUST be contained within an area called a FORM TAG, so whenever you start a form you must first insert a FORM TAG.
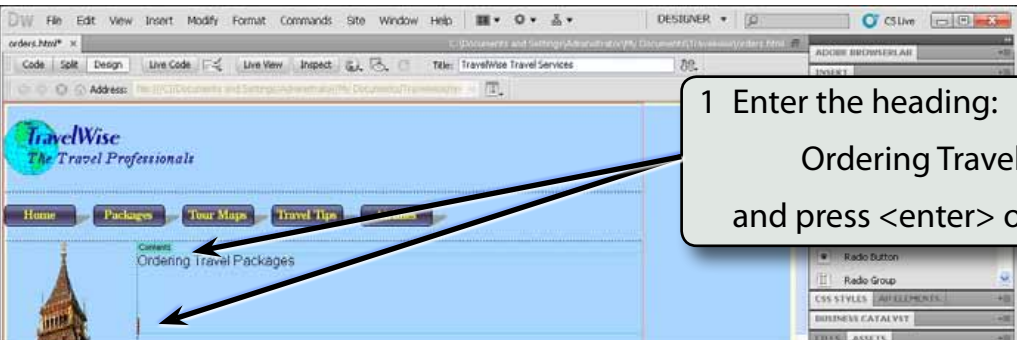
> 1 Set the INSERT panel to the FORMS tools then highlight the CONTENTS text in the CONTENTS region and delete it.

> 2 Click on the FORM button in the FORMS tools and the green contents frame should expand.
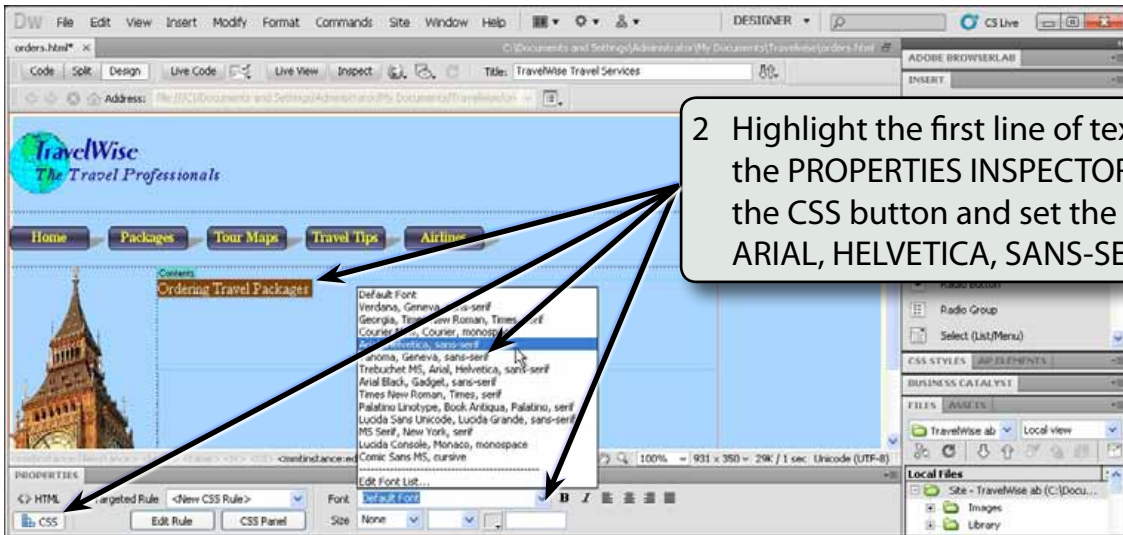
Entering the Text of the Form

Some text needs to be provided at the top of the form to explain details about the form to users.
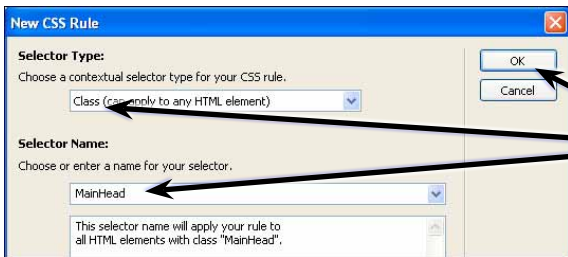
A   Adding the Sub-Heading

> 1 Enter the heading:
>
>   Ordering Travel Packages
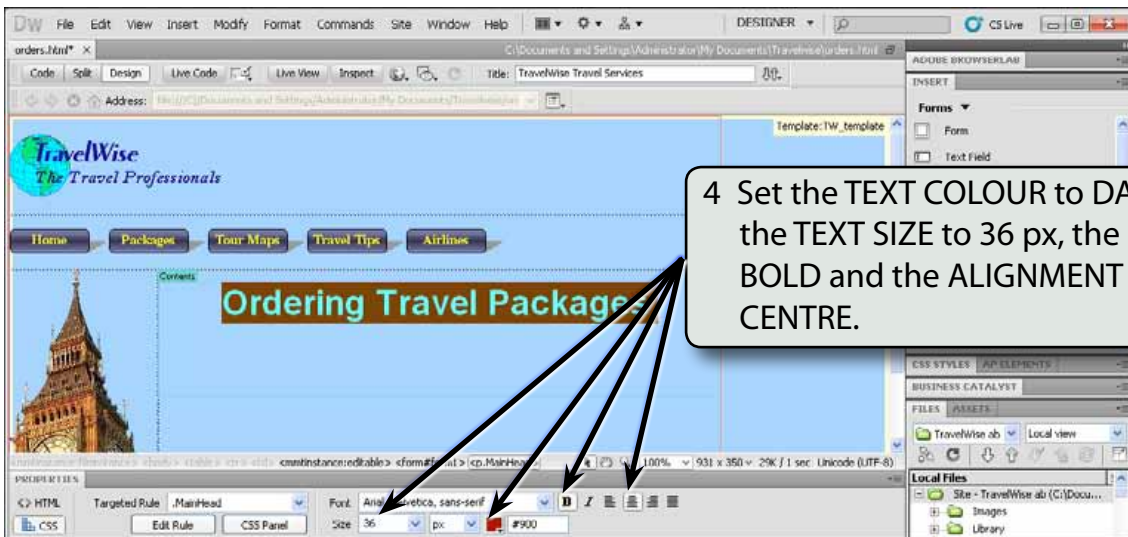>
> and press <enter> or <return> twice.

> **NOTE: As you create the form a red dotted frame will appear. This is the FORM tag and everything in the form should be within it.**

2 Highlight the first line of text and, in the PROPERTIES INSPECTOR, turn on the CSS button and set the FONT to ARIAL, HELVETICA, SANS-SERIF.
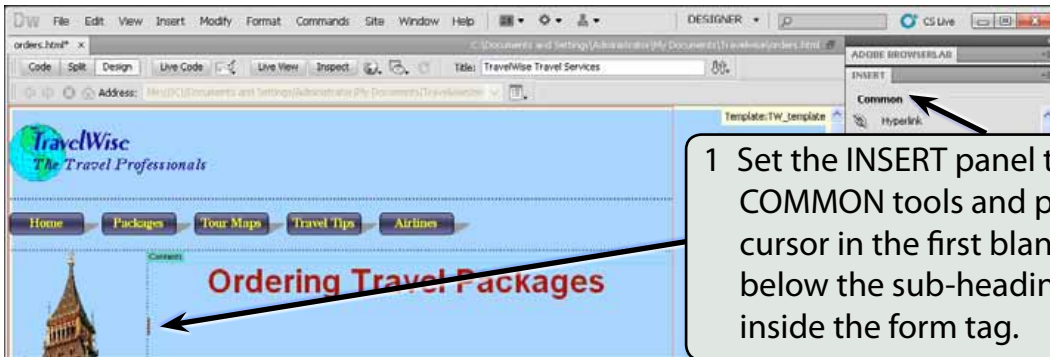

3 In the NEW CSS RULE dialogue box set the SELECTOR TYPE to CLASS, enter MAINHEAD in the SELECTOR NAME box and select OK.

4 Set the TEXT COLOUR to DARK RED, the TEXT SIZE to 36 px, the STYLE to BOLD and the ALIGNMENT to ALIGN CENTRE.
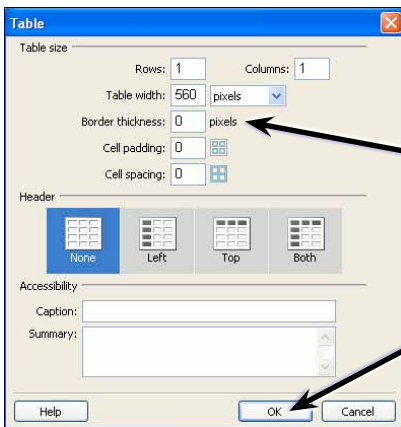
B   Entering a Message

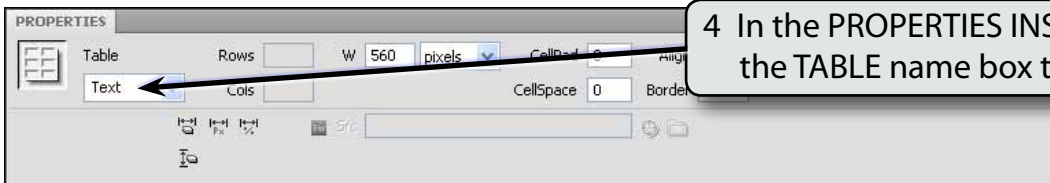A message about the order form will be added under the heading in a table.

1 Set the INSERT panel to the COMMON tools and position the cursor in the first blank line directly below the sub-heading table. This is inside the form tag.

2 Click on the TABLE button in the COMMON tools.

3 Set the table to 1 ROW, 1 COLUMN, a WIDTH of 560 pixels, a BORDER THICKNESS of 0, a CELL PADDING of 0 and CELL SPACING of 0, then select OK to insert the single-celled table.
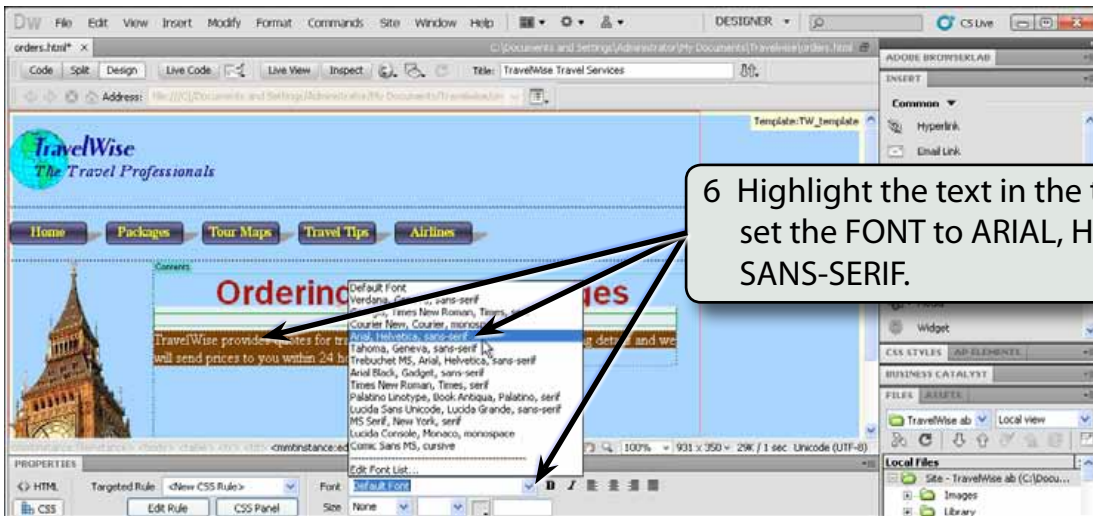
NOTE: **The table is set to a fixed width of 560 pixels so that it can be aligned with other objects in the form.**
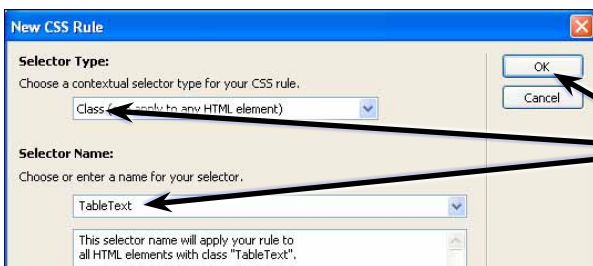

4 In the PROPERTIES INSPECTOR set the TABLE name box to TEXT.
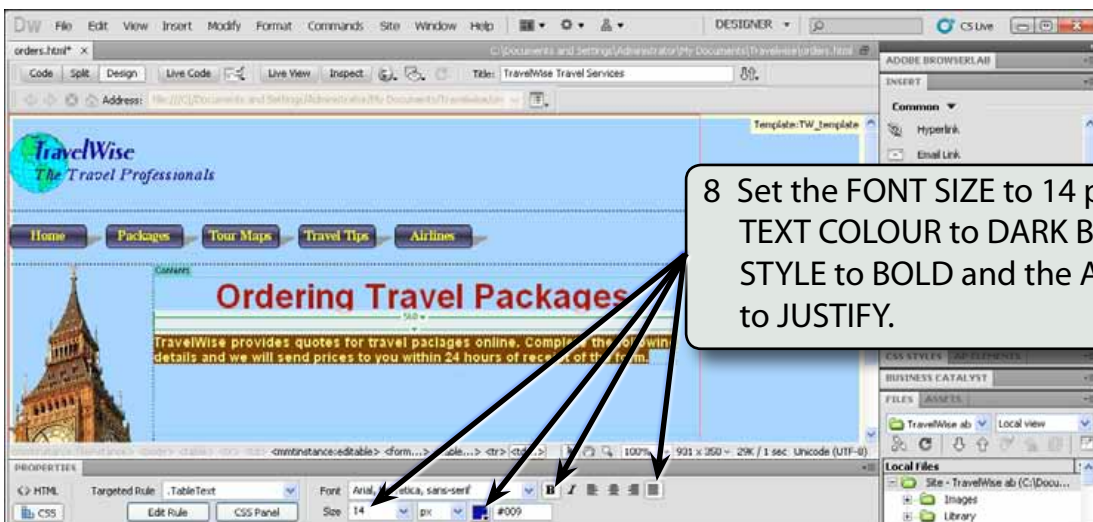
5 Click in the table's cell and enter:

TravelWise provides quotes for travel packages online. Complete the following details and we will send prices to you within 24 hours of receipt of the form.

6 Highlight the text in the table and set the FONT to ARIAL, HELVETICA, SANS-SERIF.

7 In the NEW CSS RULE dialogue box set the SELECTOR TYPE to CLASS, enter TABLETEXT in the SELECTOR NAME box and select OK.

8 Set the FONT SIZE to 14 pixels, the TEXT COLOUR to DARK BLUE, the STYLE to BOLD and the ALIGNMENT to JUSTIFY.