

CSS Introduction

CSS is the language we use to style a Web page.

What is CSS?

- CSS stands for Cascading Style Sheets
- CSS describes how HTML elements are to be displayed on screen, paper, or in other media
- CSS saves a lot of work. It can control the layout of multiple web pages all at once
- External stylesheets are stored in CSS files

CSS Demo - One HTML Page - Multiple Styles!

Here we will show one HTML page displayed with four different stylesheets. Click on the "Stylesheet 1", "Stylesheet 2", "Stylesheet 3", "Stylesheet 4" links below to see the different styles:

Why Use CSS?

CSS is used to define styles for your web pages, including the design, layout and variations in display for different devices and screen sizes.

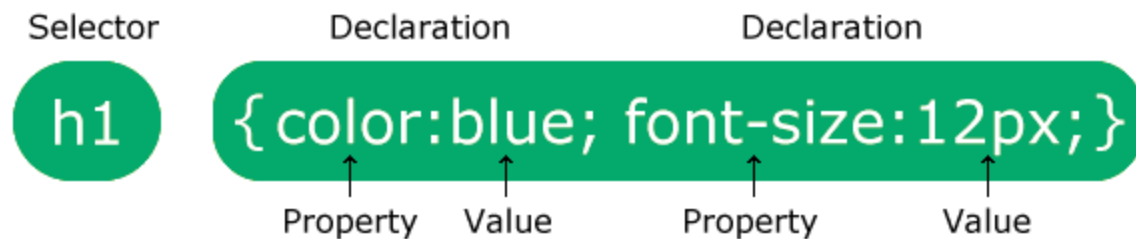
CSS Example

```
body {  
  background-color: lightblue;  
}
```

```
h1 {  
  color: white;  
  text-align: center;  
}  
  
p {  
  font-family: verdana;  
  font-size: 20px;  
}
```

A CSS rule consists of a selector and a declaration block.

CSS Syntax



The selector points to the HTML element you want to style.

The declaration block contains one or more declarations separated by semicolons.

Each declaration includes a CSS property name and a value, separated by a colon.

Multiple CSS declarations are separated with semicolons, and declaration blocks are surrounded by curly braces.

Example

In this example all <p> elements will be center-aligned, with a red text color:

```
p {  
  color: red;
```

```
text-align: center;
}
```

Example Explained

- `p` is a selector in CSS (it points to the HTML element you want to style: `<p>`).
- `color` is a property, and `red` is the property value
- `text-align` is a property, and `center` is the property value

You will learn much more about CSS selectors and CSS properties in the next chapters!

The CSS element Selector

The element selector selects HTML elements based on the element name.

Example

Here, all `<p>` elements on the page will be center-aligned, with a red text color:

```
p {
  text-align: center;
  color: red;
}
```

The CSS id Selector

The id selector uses the id attribute of an HTML element to select a specific element.

The id of an element is unique within a page, so the id selector is used to select one unique element!

To select an element with a specific id, write a hash (`#`) character, followed by the id of the element.

Example

The CSS rule below will be applied to the HTML element with id="para1":

```
#para1 {  
  text-align: center;  
  color: red;  
}
```

Note: An id name cannot start with a number!

The CSS class Selector

The class selector selects HTML elements with a specific class attribute.

To select elements with a specific class, write a period (.) character, followed by the class name.

Example

In this example all HTML elements with class="center" will be red and center-aligned:

```
.center {  
  text-align: center;  
  color: red;  
}
```

The CSS Universal Selector

The universal selector (*) selects all HTML elements on the page.

Example

The CSS rule below will affect every HTML element on the page:

```
* {  
  text-align: center;  
  color: blue;  
}
```

The CSS Grouping Selector

The grouping selector selects all the HTML elements with the same style definitions.

Look at the following CSS code (the h1, h2, and p elements have the same style definitions):

```
h1 {  
  text-align: center;  
  color: red;  
}  
  
h2 {  
  text-align: center;  
  color: red;  
}  
  
p {  
  text-align: center;  
  color: red;  
}
```

It will be better to group the selectors, to minimize the code.

To group selectors, separate each selector with a comma.

Example

In this example we have grouped the selectors from the code above:

```
h1, h2, p {  
  text-align: center;  
  color: red;  
}
```

All CSS Simple Selectors

Selector	Example	Example description
<u>#id</u>	#firstname	Selects the element with id="firstname"
<u>.class</u>	.intro	Selects all elements with class="intro"
<u>element.class</u>	p.intro	Selects only <p> elements with class="intro"
<u>*</u>	*	Selects all elements
<u>element</u>	p	Selects all <p> elements
<u>element,element,..</u>	div, p	Selects all <div> elements and all <p> elements