What are the best practices associated with using classes vs. ids?

If you’re thinking of building a website its likely you’ve heard the terms “HTML” and “CSS,” but may be wondering how they’re different. They go hand-in-hand in building a webpage, but each serve a very unique purpose.

Quite simply, **HTML (Hypertext Mark up Language)** is used to create the actual content of the page, such as written text, and **CSS (Cascade Styling Sheets)** is responsible for the design or style of the website, including the layout, visual effects and background colour.

In the CSS, a class selector is a name preceded by a full stop (“.”) and an selector is a name preceded by a hash character (“#”). The difference between an ID and a class is that an ID can be used to identify one element, whereas a class can be used to identify more than one.

This allows you to set a particular style for many HTML elements with the same class. The class selector uses the HTML class attribute, and is defined with a “.” Id is used when we have to apply CSS property to one attribute only.

A CSS rule-set consists of a selector and a declaration block contains one or more declaration separated by semicolons. Each declaration includes a CSS property name and value, separated by a colon.

The ID selector uses the id attribute of the HTML element, and is defined with a ‘#’. Class: The class selector is used to specify a style for a group of elements. Unlike the ID selector, the class selector is most often used on several elements

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You can also apply a selector to a specific HTML element by simply stating the HTML selector first, so p.jam { /\* whatever \*/ } will only be applied to **paragraph** elements that have the class “jam”.

The benefit of this is that you can have the same HTML element, but present it differently depending on its class or ID.

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