## color

| | |
|---|---|
| **Values:** | `<color>` \| `inherit` |
| **Initial value:** | Depends on user agent |
| **Applies to:** | All elements |
| **Inherited:** | Yes |

## Color Values

The value of the `color` property is any of the valid color types and system colors. Here's a refresher.

RGB colors can be specified in any of the following formats:

```
{color: #0000FF;}
{color: #00F;}
{color: rgb(0,0,255);}
{color: rgb(0%, 0%, 100%);}
```

The first example uses three two-digit hexadecimal RGB values (for a complete explanation, see Appendix D). The second example uses a shorthand three-digit syntax, which is converted to the six-digit form by replicating each digit (therefore, 00F is the same as 0000FF).

The last two formats use a functional notation specifying RGB values as a comma-separated list of regular values (from 0 to 255) or percentage values (from 0 to 100%). Note that percentage values can use decimals, e.g., `rgb(0%, 50.5%, 33.3%)`.

CSS 1 and 2 also recognize 16 valid color names: `aqua`, `black`, `blue`, `fuchsia`, `gray`, `green`, `lime`, `maroon`, `navy`, `olive`, `purple`, `red`, `silver`, `teal`, `white`, and `yellow`. The CSS 2.1 Recommendation adds `orange`, for a total of 17.

The `color` property is easy to use, as shown in these examples (Figure 20-1). Unfortunately, in this book we are limited to the full spectrum of gray.

> Note that this example and others in this chapter use inline styles purely as a space-saving device, not as a recommended markup practice. It is preferable to put style information in an external or embedded style sheet in the head of the document.

```
<p style="color: #000">Aenean congue bibendum ligula.</p>
<p style="color: #666">Aenean congue bibendum ligula.</p>
<p style="color: #CCC">Aenean congue bibendum ligula.</p>
```

Despite being fairly straightforward, there are still a few aspects of the foreground color property and the way browsers interpret it to keep in mind.

- The `color` property is inherited. It makes sense that when you set a color to the text of a paragraph, any emphasized or strong text within it would be that color, too.