

A. CSS = Cascading Style Sheets

a. Purpose

- i. Visual appearance of HTML elements
- ii. Positioning in relationship to one another
- iii. Interaction between elements
- iv. Transition/animation of elements

b. Context-free language

- i. Definition: can be described by recursive rules
- ii. Stylesheet parsing is very strict
- iii. Unlike HTML, parsers can and will generate syntax errors based on incorrect syntax usage
 1. Style pre-processors, SASS: syntax error
 2. Vanilla CSS, react app: browser will tag error and not display intended style
 3. Example

c. CSS rules are in the global scope

- i. Applying styles too broadly can result in unintended consequences
- ii. Eg. `div { background: red; }`
 1. applies to EVERY div in the document, even divs from 3rd party libraries, etc.
- iii. Be cautious about far-ranging overrides

B. Stylesheet rules

a. What does a rule look like?

b. `[selector] { [style rule] }`

- i. Eg `body { background-color: white; }`

c. We can group many style rules between braces and all will apply to the selector

d. We can have multiple duplicate selectors

- i. all style rules will be applied according to their specificity
- ii. Best practice is to group all rules for the same selector together so they don't collide unnecessarily

e. Rules can override each other if they apply to the same selector and either

- i. Are located farther down in the style sheet
- ii. Have a higher specificity

C. Selectors

a. Stylesheet rules are made up with selectors

- i. A combination of ids, classes, tags, combinators, etc.
- ii. https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/CSS/CSS_Selectors

b. IDs

- i. Targets an HTML tag with a certain ID attribute
- ii. Id must be unique, 1 ID per document
 1. HTML will allow you to tag a document with more than 1 ID, and some browsers will apply the styles properly
 2. Multiple IDs in a document are not valid HTML and will throw a validation error
- iii. Stylesheet rule begins with #

c. Classes

- i. Targets an HTML tag with a certain string as part of the class attribute, React = `className` attribute
- ii. Classes do not need to be unique
 1. We can have the same class several times per document

- a. Classes are the workhorse of CSS
 - b. We want most of our styles to be classes so that they can be reused/reapplied
- 2. Many classes can be applied to the same tag and will stack up
- d. HTML tags
 - i. Style rules are applied to a plain HTML tag
 - ii. Applies broadly to any of that tag in the document
 - iii. Eg `div { background: red }`
- e. Pseudo selectors/pseudo classes
 - i. Used when you want to style a selected element but only when it is in a certain state
 - ii. Eg `:hover`, `:selected`, `:checked`, `:first-child`, `:nth-of-type`
 - iii. https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Learn/CSS/Introduction_to_CSS/Pseudo-classes_and_pseudo-elements#Pseudo-classes
- f. Pseudo elements
 - i. keywords preceded by a colons (`:`) added to the end of selectors to select a certain part of an element
 - ii. Different than the pseudo elements above!
 - iii. Only 6: `:after`, `:before`, `:first-letter`, `:first-line`, `:selection`, `:backdrop`
 - iv. Eg. `:first-letter` example
 - v. Eg. `:after` example
- g. Attribute Selectors
 - i. Styling is applied to HTML tag based on characteristics inherent to the tag
 - ii. Eg `a[href="http://www.google.com"] { color: green }`
 - iii. Brittle, will probably break styles if HTML structure is changed
- h. Combinators
 - i. Ways of combining classes and ids
 - 1. Descendent: element is a descendent of previous element
 - a. Use a space
 - 2. Child: element is a direct descendent of previous element
 - a. Use a `>`
 - 3. Sibling: element is a sibling of previous element (they have the same parent but don't necessarily follow directly)
 - a. Use a `~`
 - 4. Adjacent: element is an adjacent sibling of previous element
 - a. Use a `+`

D. Naming

- a. Give your style names (classes & ids) meaningful names that are easy to reuse
- b. Try not to reference how the class/id is styled within the name
 - i. `.blue-underline`
 - ii. That may be how it's styled now, but what happens if that changes in the future?
 - iii. You don't want your codebase full of `.blue-underline` that are actually green background colors
 - 1. Better name might be the purpose, like `.content-highlight`
 - 2. Reusable and not tied to specific implementation
 - 3. Has semantic meaning for people not familiar why the blue underline is used

E. Cascading

- a. style sheets can "stack up" (cascade) until sum of calculated styles are reflected in the presentation

- b. The cascade is an algorithm that defines how to combine property values originating from different sources, including the default browser stylesheets
- c. Specificity
 - i. CSS rules win their way to visibility based on a calculated score from cascade algorithm
 - ii. Final score is called specificity and determines what style is displayed
 - iii. If two or more selectors apply to the same element, the one with higher specificity wins
 - iv. There are four distinct categories of selector which can combine define the specificity level of a given selector
 - 1. inline styles
 - 2. IDs & classes
 - 3. Attributes
 - 4. Tag elements
 - v. Calculating specificity
 - 1. Give every id selector ("foo") a value of 100
 - 2. Give every class selector (".bar") a value of 10
 - 3. Give every pseudo selector (":hover", ":selected") a value of 10
 - 4. Give every HTML selector ("div") a value of 1
 - 5. Give every pseudo element (":before", ":first-letter") a value of 1
 - vi. Add them all up to get the specificity value
 - 1. If selectors have an equal specificity value, the latest rule is the one that counts
 - 2. The inline stylesheet has a greater specificity than other rules
- d. !important
 - i. Add to a style rule to apply style rule regardless of specificity of others
 - ii. If 2 conflicting rules have !important, specificity decides
 - iii. If everything is important, nothing is
 - iv. Best practice: add ids instead of !important

F. How to add styles to a document

- a. Inline head = <style> tag within <head> tag
 - i. Advantage = visibility within doc
 - ii. Disadvantage = only applies to current doc, not scalable
- b. Inline tag = style attribute on tag
 - i. Advantage = only applies to current tag, high specificity
 - ii. Disadvantage = only applies to current tag, not scalable
- c. External = linked stylesheet <link href="stylesheet"> within <head> tag
 - i. Advantage = defined styles can be applied to any doc where stylesheet is linked, most common way of organizing styles
 - ii. Disadvantage = single stylesheet (or bundled) can be unwieldy, can import styles not present on page, wasteful
- d. CSS modules = CSS styles are included as js module via css class names created by webpack when building web app like React
 - i. Advantage = styles are namespaced within context of individual modules, no longer globally scoped = no unintentional style collisions

G. Units

- a. Px
 - i. "Magic" unit of CSS
 - ii. not related to the current font
 - iii. px is an abstract unit where a ratio controls how the pixel maps to actual device pixel and how it maps to physical units

- iv. Px is designed to be roughly equivalent across devices
- v. the goal is for 96px to equal about 1 inch on the screen, regardless of the actual pixel density of the screen
 - 1. if the user is on a phone with a pixel density of 266 DPI (dots per inch), and an element is placed on the screen with a width of 96px, the actual width of the element would be 266 device pixels (in other words, 1 inch)
- b. Percentage (relative to parent container)
- c. Em (relative to current font size)
 - i. 1em = current font size of element being styled
- d. Rem (relative to current font size)
 - i. 1rem = current font size of root em (html font-size)
 - ii. Inherited font sizes have no effect
- e. Vh = 100th height of viewport
- f. Vw = 100th width of viewport

H. Box model

- a. Each HTML element is rendered as a box
 - i. Content
 - ii. Padding inside box
 - iii. Border
 - iv. Margin outside box
- b. Block box
 - i. Always appear below each other in default browser display
 - ii. "Static" flow
 - iii. Width is based on the width of its parent container
 - iv. Height is based on the content it contains
- c. Inline box
 - i. Not for determining layout but for styling inside blocks
 - ii. Width is based on the content it contains
 - iii. Adding block styling like margins, height, width don't have any effect

I. Basic CSS attributes

- a. These attributes can be applied to just about any element via style rules
- b. Visibility
 - i. Hidden: hide the element but leave the space it occupied (almost like making it transparent)
 - 1. Not ignored by screen readers
 - ii. Visible (default): show the element
- c. Color
 - i. Named colors: <https://htmlcolorcodes.com/color-names/>
 - 1. Eg `div { background: red; }`
 - ii. Hexadecimal colors
 - 1. `#[0-9a-f]{6}`
 - 2. `#` + 6 digits/3 tuples: `#[rr][gg][bb]`, 0-255 rgb value
 - 3. 0-255 → 0-9, A-F
 - 4. <https://www.google.com/search?q=rgb+to+hex>
 - 5. `ffffff` = `[255][255][255]` = pure white
 - 6. `000000` = `[0][0][0]` = pure black
 - 7. Can use hexadecimal shorthand notation to save space

- a. Eg `.dark-yellow {color:#ffcc00;} → .dark-yellow {color:#fc0;}`
 - b. This only works if all 3 tuples are matching (ie cannot shorthand `#ccfeff` to `#cfef`)
- iii. Rgb/rgba
 1. Use full RGB values as `rgb(R, G, B)`
 2. Eg `rgb(255, 255, 255) = #ffffff` = pure white
 3. Eg `rgb(0, 0, 0) = #000000` = pure black
 4. Rgba
 - a. adds opacity value at some decimal value between 0 and 1
 - b. 0 = full transparency
 - c. 1 = full opacity
 - d. Eg `rgba(255, 255, 255, .5) = #ffffff` at .5 transparency
- d. Background
 - i. Change the background of any element, ie what paints underneath the content in that element
 - ii. Lots of background images: we'll cover during images in week 6
 - iii. Background-color
 1. applies solid colors as background on an element
- e. Display
 - i. behavior, ie `block → inline + inline → block`
 - ii. Inline
 1. within a block container
 2. Accepts margin and padding but still sits inline within text
 3. Does not accept height/width
 - iii. Inline-block
 1. Similar to inline but will accept height/width
 - iv. Block = creates its own bounding box
 - v. Flex = defines a flex container
 - vi. Grid = defines a grid container
 - vii. None = Not displayed, Still in the DOM, removed visually and ignored by screen readers (unlike visibility: hidden)
- f. Border
 - i. Line at boundary of box of content
 - ii. Border-width
 1. thickness of the border
 - a. Named: Thick = 5px b. Medium = 3px c. Thin = 1px
 - b. Length: px, em, rem, vh and vw units
 - iii. Border-style
 1. Specifies the type of line drawn around the element
 2. <https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/CSS/border-style>
 3. solid: A solid, continuous line
 4. none (default): No line is drawn
 5. dashed: A line that consists of dashes
 6. dotted: A line that consists of dots
 - iv. Border-color
 1. Specifies the color of the border
 - v. Border-radius

1. give any element "rounded corners"
2. Eg border-radius: 4px
3. Can specify the value of border-radius in percentages to create a circle or ellipse shape
4. % can be used any time you want the border radius to be directly correlated with the elements width
5. Border-radius: 50%

g. Padding

- i. Spacing inside box of content between content and border
- ii. Cannot be negative

h. Margin

- i. Spacing outside border
- ii. Can be negative
 1. top/left: pulls element in that direction
 2. bottom/right: pulls other elements into overlapping element

i. Box-sizing

- i. Allows you to change how the width of the box is calculated
- ii. Content-box
 1. Built up from content box
 2. Eg 600px container, 3 boxes 200px wide
 3. Boxes are actually 202px wide with border
- iii. Border-box
 1. Built down from external width
 2. Forces actual width of entire box to "width", accounting for padding/border
 3. Best practice: set your blocks to use border-box

J. CSS List specific attributes

- a. list-style-type: Sets the type of bullets to use for the list, for example, square or circle bullets for an unordered list, or numbers, letters or roman numerals for an ordered list
 - i. <https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/CSS/list-style-type#Values>
 - ii. None: removes the bullets from the list
- b. list-style-position: Sets whether the bullets appear inside the list items, or outside them before the start of each item
 - i. Outside (default): outside the bounds of the list item
 - ii. Inside: inside the bounds of the list item
- c. list-style-image: Allows you to use a custom image for the bullet, rather than a simple square or circle

K. CSS Typography attributes

- a. <https://builttoadapt.io/8-point-grid-vertical-rhythm-90d05ad95032>
- b. Explanation of typography
 - i. Baseline
 - ii. ascenders/descenders
 - iii. Line-height
- c. Font-family = specifies a prioritized list of one or more font family names and/or generic family names for the selected element
 - i. Font stack
 1. Serif, sans serif, monospace, cursive, fantasy, system-ui
 2. Best practice: always include at least one generic font family
 3. Cannot count on what fonts a user has installed

- d. Importing a font to use
 - i. <link>
 - ii. @import
- e. Font-size
 - i. <https://css-tricks.com/css-font-size/>
 - ii. Named: Xx-small, x-small, small, medium, large, x-large, xx-large
 - iii. Relative: smaller, larger (roughly corresponding to named values)
 - iv. Length: em, rem, px, etc.
 - v. Percentage: relative to parent's font size
- f. Line-height
 - i. sets the height of a line box
 - ii. amount of space between lines in the same block
 - iii. Example: <https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/CSS/line-height>
- g. Font-weight
 - i. Named weights: normal, bold
 - ii. Relative: lighter, bolder
 - iii. Numeric: between 1 and 1000, inclusive
 - 1. Numeric weights 100,200,etc. map to typical font weights like extra light, bold, black, etc.
 - 2. 1-1000 supports finer grained control from fonts
 - a. Somewhat spotty support
 - b. Not supported by all browsers, IE notably (Edge supports)
- h. Color
 - i. Change text color of content box
- i. Font-style
 - i. Normal
 - ii. Italic
 - iii. Oblique
 - iv. Italic vs. oblique = oblique is usually just sloped, italic is usually a different font style, often cursive
- j. Text-decoration
 - i. Shorthand for text-decoration-line, text-decoration-color, and text-decoration-style
 - ii. Appearance of decorative lines used on text
 - iii. Best practice: Do not use underlining except on links
 - iv. Style: dashed, dotted, wavy, solid, double
 - v. Line: underline, overline, line-through
 - vi. Eg. `text-decoration: green dashed underline`
- k. Transform
 - i. Takes language specific cases into account
 - ii. CAPITALIZE
 - iii. Uppercase
 - iv. Lowercase

L. CSS Positioning

- a. Float
 - i. Concept comes from print design
 - ii. Images/elements set into layout so that text wraps ("flows") around them
 - iii. Removed from the flow of the page, but remain part of it to affect other elements

- iv. Floating an element usually changes display: attribute to “block”
- b. Position
 - i. Can help you manipulate the location of an element in the page or relative to the other other elements around it
 - 1. Static
 - a. every element has static position by default
 - b. will conform to normal page flow
 - 2. Relative
 - a. Continues to appear in normal page flow
 - b. left/right/top/bottom can now be applied
 - c. Element will be nudged in that direction
 - 3. Absolute
 - a. element is removed from the flow of the document
 - b. other elements will behave as if it's not there
 - c. Positional properties will work on it
 - d. If no other positioning is set on parent, child positioning will be relative to the document
 - e. To make positioning relative to parent, set position: relative on parent
 - 4. Fixed
 - a. Similar to absolute
 - b. Position relative to document
 - c. Not affected by scrolling
- c. Z-index
 - i. controls the vertical stacking order of elements that overlap
 - 1. relative positioning has nudged it over something else
 - 2. negative margin has pulled the element over another
 - 3. absolutely positioned elements overlap each other
 - ii. ie, which one appears as if it is physically closer to you
 - iii. z-index only affects positioned elements: absolute, relative, etc.
 - iv. Without z-index value, elements stack in the order that they appear in the DOM, ie the lowest one down at the same hierarchy level appears on top

M. CSS modules

- a. <http://localhost:3000/?demo=cssmodules>
- b. CSS files where class names are scoped locally by default
- c. not an official spec or an implementation in the browser
- d. a process in a build step (w/ the help of Webpack or Browserify)
- e. changes class names and selectors to be namespaced
- f. identifier is guaranteed to be globally unique
 - i. Advantages
 - 1. Step towards modular and reusable components that will not have side effects
 - 2. Cleaner CSS
 - 3. Avoidance of monolithic CSS files (each component will have its own file)
 - ii. Disadvantages
 - 1. not as human-readable DOM
 - 2. Need special webpack setup
- g. How does it work?
 - i. Normal css = styles are linked into the page and available globally

- ii. Tries to solve inadvertent collisions/cascades in disparate components, esp in larger apps
- iii. With modules, we import the styles like JS import, which transforms the CSS rules, namespacing all classes
- iv. css-loader injects stylesheet into the document
- v. value returned from the import is an object mapping of local CSS class names to their namespaced versions
- vi. Eg, `{ foo:"foo_foo_abcde", bar:"foo_bar_abcde" }`
- vii. Setting `class={style.foo}` in HTML = setting it to the local version of that named class, `class="foo_foo_abcde"`