Inheritance in CSS

Overview

CSS rulesets cascade down the CSS hierarchy from parent selectors to their children selectors. These CSS rulesets are inherited from their parent selectors.

If the CSS property is not specified, the child element will naturally **inherit a CSS property** with its value **from the parent element.**

```
HTML :      <div id="Parent">
                Parent Div
                <div id="Child1">Child Div-I</div>
                <div id="Child2">Child Div-II</div>
            </div>


CSS  :       #Parent {
               color: red;
             }
```


Browser :

> ❖ You can see we only specified the colour: red for the parent div but the child div's also got that property. This is because of CSS Inheritance.

NOTE : Inheritance in CSS occurs when an inheritable property is not set on an element. It goes up in its parent chain to set the property value to its parent value.

CSS Properties which can be inherited

- font-size
- font-family
- font-weight
- color

CSS Properties that can't be inherited

- height
- width
- border
- margin
- padding etc.

There is a way by which these properties can also be inherited. For that, we need to use the **inherit keyword**.

inherit keyword

The inherit keyword specifies that a property should inherit its value from its parent element.

The inherit keyword can be used for any CSS property and on any HTML element.

HTML :

```
<div id="Parent">
 Parent Div
 <div id="Child1">Child Div-I</div>
 <div id="Child2">Child Div-II</div>
</div>
```

CSS :

```
#Parent {
  height: 100px;
  color: red;
}

#Child1 {
  height: inherit;
}
```

Parent Div
Child Div-I

Child Div-II

Browser :

❖ Parent div has the properties of color:red and height:100px , the color property was automatically inherited by the child div's, but the height property is not inheritable. To inherit the height property inherit keyword is used. So the height of the Child-I div becomes 100px.

NOTE : Only direct child elements can inherit a CSS property from its parent element using the inherit value if the CSS property is set by its parent element. This is to ensure that the CSS property to be inherited is inheritable.