

# Adding CSS to HTML

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## Overview

The browser formats the HTML document based upon the information in the stylesheet. The browser access the stylesheets from the HTML document itself. There are three ways to add CSS styles to your document. Each of them can contain multiple properties:

- Inline styles
- Internal styles
- External styles

## Inline style

An inline stylesheet is applied directly to the HTML code using the **style attribute**. The inline stylesheet syntax contains properties written inside the style attribute.

Multiple properties can be defined at a time separated by a semicolon.

An inline style is used to apply a **unique style** to a single element.

**Example :**    `<p style = " color:blue ; font-size:40px "> Inline CSS </p>`

## Internal style

An **internal** or **in-page** stylesheet holds the CSS code for the web page. The internal stylesheet contains the styles for that HTML written inside the HTML document and can be used only for that document. They cannot be reused.

Internal CSS can be applied using **<style> tag inside the <head> tag**.

**Example :**    `<style>`  
                  `h1 { color : blue ; }`  
                  `h2 { color : red ; }`  
                  `p { color : green ; }`  
                  `</style>`

## External styles

In an external stylesheet, a different CSS file is made by which one can change the look of an entire website by changing just that one file. The syntax is similar to internal stylesheets, but it is applied using a complete different CSS file. It is saved with the **'`.css`' extension. Like 'styles.css'.**

To use external stylesheet, a reference is provided to file inside the `<link>` element:

**Syntax :** `<link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="styles.css">`

**NOTE:** The `<link>` element **goes inside the `<head>` section** of the HTML document. The 'styles.css' contains the CSS syntax code only.

- rel defines the relationship with the linked document
- href defines the location of the linked document
- type defines the media type of the linked document

## Cascading

Cascading order defines which style will be applied to elements when multiple styles are used.

**Cascading order priority : Inline > ( internal = external ) > browser default**

The internal and external CSS are treated equally by the browser. But the order of their definition decides which one's property will get preference.

- ❖ If the link to external CSS is defined before the internal CSS, then properties of internal CSS will get the preference, i.e. **internal CSS > external CSS**.
- ❖ If the link to external CSS is defined after the internal CSS, then properties of external CSS will get preference over internal CSS, i.e. **external CSS > internal CSS**.