

# Selectors in CSS

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## Overview

Selectors point to the HTML element which we want to style. We use selectors in internal and external stylesheets. There are mainly three types of selectors that are used to apply styles:

- Element selector
- Class selector
- Id selector

Specificity defines which style will be applied to the HTML element when multiple styles are applied from different selectors. If the specificity is the same, then the latest rule is applied.

**Specificity Order :** Inline > id selector > class selector > tag selector > browser default.

**NOTE:** If the same property is defined inside the same type of selector, then the property defined at the last will be used by the browser.

```
Example :  p{
            color : red ;
            font-size : 20px ;
            color : blue ;
        }
```

- ❖ In the above example colour of the p tag is given twice, it could be by mistake, and the colour blue will be the final colour of that paragraph.

## Element Selector

The element selector selects all elements with the specified element name. This will select all the elements in the HTML document. This method is not used so commonly. So, to apply styles to only some elements, we need to use some restrictions.

```
Syntax: element { css declarations; }
```

**HTML :**      <h1>Blue Color</h1>

**CSS :**        h1 {  
                 color: blue;  
              }

**Browser :**

**Blue Color**

## Class Selector

The class selector selects multiple elements which have the same class with a specific class attribute. To select elements with a specific class, **write a period(.)** character, followed by the name of the class.

**Syntax:** .class-name {css declarations ; }

To use a class selector, the **class attribute** is used in the HTML element's opening tag. The value of the class attribute contains the name of the class. There can be **multiple classes** added to the tag by giving space in between.

**HTML :**        <p class="class1">Class 1</p>  
                 <p class="class1 class2">Class 2</p>  
                 <p class="class3">Class 3</p>  
                 <p class="class3 class2">Class 4 </p>

**CSS :**        .class1 { color:red; }  
                 .class2{ text-align: right; }  
                 .class3 { color:green; }  
                 .class4{ text-align: left; }

Class 1

Class 2

Class 3

Class 4

**Browser :**

## Id Selector

The id selector selects only one element with a specific id attribute. To select an element with a specific id, write a **hash(#) character**, followed by the name of the id.

**Syntax :** #class-name { css declarations; }

To use the id selector, the id attribute is used in the HTML element's opening tag. The value of the id attribute contains the name of the id. There can **only be one id in the tag**. The id is **unique** in an HTML page. If another element is given the same id, the styles would not be applied by the browser.

**HTML :**

```
<p id="id1">Text 1</p>
<p id="id2">Text 2</p>
<p id="id3">Text 3</p>
```

**CSS :**

```
#id1 {
    color:red;
}
#id2{
    color: blue;
}
#id3 {
    color:green;
    background-color: red;
}
```

Text 1

Text 2

Text 3

**Browser :**

## Grouping selector

Sometimes we need to apply specific styles to different elements, and to reduce the redundancy in the code, we use grouping. Separate the selectors with a comma followed by the CSS declarations.

```
Without grouping : h1{  
    color : red ;  
    background : black ;  
}  
  
p{  
    color: red ;  
    background : black ;  
}  
  
With grouping :    h1,p {  
    color: red ;  
    background : black ;  
}
```

## Universal Selector

The universal selector (\*) selects all HTML elements on the page.

```
Example :    * {  
    text-align: center;  
    color: blue;  
}
```