Print Page

CSS Selector Reference

W3Schools' CSS reference is tested regularly with all major browsers.

CSS Selectors

In CSS, selectors are patterns used to select the element(s) you want to style.

Use our CSS Selector Tester (trysel.asp) to demonstrate the different selectors.

The "CSS" column indicates in which CSS version the property is defined (CSS1, CSS2, or CSS3).

Selector	Example	Example description	CSS
.class (sel_class.asp)	.intro	Selects all elements with class="intro"	1
#id (sel_id.asp)	#firstname	Selects the element with id="firstname"	1
* (sel_all.asp)	*	Selects all elements	2
element (sel_element.asp)	p	Selects all <p> elements	1
element,element (sel_element_comma.asp)	div, p	Selects all <div> elements and all <p> elements	1
element element (sel_element_element.asp)	div p	Selects all <p> elements inside <div> elements	1
element>element (sel_element_gt.asp)	div > p	Selects all <p> elements where the parent is a <div> element	2
element+element (sel_element_pluss.asp)	div + p	Selects all <p> elements that are placed immediately after <div>	2

		elements	
element1~element2 (sel_gen_sibling.asp)	p ~ ul	Selects every element that are preceded by a <p> element	3
[*attribute*] (sel_attribute.asp)	[target]	Selects all elements with a target attribute	2
[*attribute=value*] (sel_attribute_value.asp)	[target=_blank]	Selects all elements with target="_blank"	2
[*attribute~=value*] (sel_attribute_value_contains.asp)	[title~=flower]	Selects all elements with a title attribute containing the word "flower"	2
[*attribute|=value*] (sel_attribute_value_lang.asp)	[lang|=en]	Selects all elements with a lang attribute value starting with "en"	2
[*attribute^=value*] (sel_attr_begin.asp)	a[href^="https"]	Selects every <a> element whose href attribute value begins with "https"	3
[*attribute$=value*] (sel_attr_end.asp)	a[href$=".pdf"]	Selects every <a> element whose href attribute value ends with ".pdf"	3
[*attribute*=value*] (sel_attr_contain.asp)	a[href*="w3schools"]	Selects every <a> element whose href attribute value contains the substring "w3schools"	3
:active (sel_active.asp)	a:active	Selects the active link	1
::after (sel_after.asp)	p::after	Insert content after every <p> element	2
::before (sel_before.asp)	p::before	Insert content	2

		before the content of every <p> element	
:checked (sel_checked.asp)	input:checked	Selects every checked <input> element	3
:disabled (sel_disabled.asp)	input:disabled	Selects every disabled <input> element	3
:empty (sel_empty.asp)	p:empty	Selects every <p> element that has no children (including text nodes)	3
:enabled (sel_enabled.asp)	input:enabled	Selects every enabled <input> element	3
:first-child (sel_firstchild.asp)	p:first-child	Selects every <p> element that is the first child of its parent	2
::first-letter (sel_firstletter.asp)	p::first-letter	Selects the first letter of every <p> element	1
::first-line (sel_firstline.asp)	p::first-line	Selects the first line of every <p> element	1
:first-of-type (sel_first-of-type.asp)	p:first-of-type	Selects every <p> element that is the first <p> element of its parent	3
:focus (sel_focus.asp)	input:focus	Selects the input element which has focus	2
:hover (sel_hover.asp)	a:hover	Selects links on mouse over	1
:in-range (sel_in-range.asp)	input:in-range	Selects input elements with a value within a specified range	3
:invalid (sel_invalid.asp)	input:invalid	Selects all input elements with an invalid	3

		value	
:lang(*language*) (sel_lang.asp)	p:lang(it)	Selects every <p> element with a lang attribute equal to "it" (Italian)	2
:last-child (sel_last-child.asp)	p:last-child	Selects every <p> element that is the last child of its parent	3
:last-of-type (sel_last-of-type.asp)	p:last-of-type	Selects every <p> element that is the last <p> element of its parent	3
:link (sel_link.asp)	a:link	Selects all unvisited links	1
:not(*selector*) (sel_not.asp)	:not(p)	Selects every element that is not a <p> element	3
:nth-child(*n*) (sel_nth-child.asp)	p:nth-child(2)	Selects every <p> element that is the second child of its parent	3
:nth-last-child(*n*) (sel_nth-last-child.asp)	p:nth-last-child(2)	Selects every <p> element that is the second child of its parent, counting from the last child	3
:nth-last-of-type(*n*) (sel_nth-last-of-type.asp)	p:nth-last-of-type(2)	Selects every <p> element that is the second <p> element of its parent, counting from the last child	3
:nth-of-type(*n*) (sel_nth-of-type.asp)	p:nth-of-type(2)	Selects every <p> element that is the second <p> element of its parent	3

		its parent	
:only-of-type (sel_only-of-type.asp)	p:only-of-type	Selects every <p> element that is the only <p> element of its parent	3
:only-child (sel_only-child.asp)	p:only-child	Selects every <p> element that is the only child of its parent	3
:optional (sel_optional.asp)	input:optional	Selects input elements with no "required" attribute	3
:out-of-range (sel_out-of-range.asp)	input:out-of-range	Selects input elements with a value outside a specified range	3
:read-only (sel_read-only.asp)	input:read-only	Selects input elements with the "readonly" attribute specified	3
:read-write (sel_read-write.asp)	input:read-write	Selects input elements with the "readonly" attribute NOT specified	3
:required (sel_required.asp)	input:required	Selects input elements with the "required" attribute specified	3
:root (sel_root.asp)	:root	Selects the document's root element	3
::selection (sel_selection.asp)	::selection	Selects the portion of an element that is selected by a user	
:target (sel_target.asp)	#news:target	Selects the current active #news element (clicked on a URL containing that anchor name)	3
:valid (sel_valid.asp)	input:valid	Selects all input	3

		elements with a valid value	
:visited (sel_visited.asp)	a:visited	Selects all visited links	1