# **CSS Lists**

In this tutorial you will learn how to format HTML lists using CSS.

## **Types of HTML Lists**

There are three different types of list in HTML:

* **Unordered lists** — A list of items, where every list items are marked with bullets.
* **Ordered lists** — A list of items, where each list items are marked with numbers.
* **Definition list** — A list of items, with a description of each item.

See the tutorial on [HTML lists](https://www.tutorialrepublic.com/html-tutorial/html-lists.php) to learn more about the lists and how to create them.

## **Styling Lists with CSS**

CSS provides the several properties for styling and formatting the most commonly used unordered and ordered lists. These CSS list properties typically allow you to:

* Control the shape or appearance of the marker.
* Specify an image for the marker rather than a bullet point or number.
* Set the distance between a marker and the text in the list.
* Specify whether the marker would appear inside or outside of the box containing the list items.

In the following section we will discuss the properties that can be used to style HTML lists.

## **Changing the Marker Type of Lists**

By default, items in an [ordered list](https://www.tutorialrepublic.com/html-tutorial/html-lists.php#ordered-lists) are numbered with Arabic numerals (1, 2, 3, 5, and so on), whereas in an [unordered list](https://www.tutorialrepublic.com/html-tutorial/html-lists.php#unordered-lists), items are marked with round bullets (•).

But, you can change this default list marker type to any other type such as roman numerals, latin letters, circle, square, and so on using the list-style-type property.

Let's try out the following example to understand how this property actually works:

#### **Example**

[Try this code »](https://www.tutorialrepublic.com/codelab.php?topic=css&file=set-list-marker-type)

ul { list-style-type: square; } ol { list-style-type: upper-roman; }

## **Changing the Position of List Markers**

By default, markers of each list items are positioned outside of their display boxes.

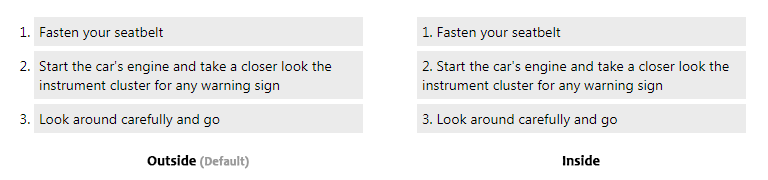
However, you can also position these markers or bullet points inside of the list item's display boxes using the list-style-position property along with the value inside. In this case the lines will wrap under the marker instead of being indented. Here's an example:

#### **Example**

[Try this code »](https://www.tutorialrepublic.com/codelab.php?topic=css&file=set-list-marker-position)

ol.in li { list-style-position: inside; } ol.out li { list-style-position: outside; }

Let's take a look at the following illustration to understand how markers or bullets are positioned.



## **Using Images as List Markers**

You can also set an image as a list marker using the list-style-image property.

The style rule in the following example assigns a transparent PNG image "arrow.png" as the list marker for all the items in the unordered list. Let's try it out and see how it works:

#### **Example**

[Try this code »](https://www.tutorialrepublic.com/codelab.php?topic=css&file=set-image-as-list-marker)

ul li { list-style-image: url("images/bullet.png"); }

Sometimes, the list-style-image property may not produce the expected output. Alternatively, you can use the following solution for better control over the positioning of image markers.

As a work-around, you can also set image bullets via the [background-image](https://www.tutorialrepublic.com/css-reference/css-background-image-property.php) CSS property. First, set the list to have no bullets. Then, define a non-repeating background image for the list element.

The following example displays the image markers equally in all browsers:

#### **Example**

[Try this code »](https://www.tutorialrepublic.com/codelab.php?topic=css&file=set-image-marker-in-background)

ul { list-style-type: none; } ul li { background-image: url("images/bullet.png"); background-position: 0px 5px; /\* X-pos Y-pos (from top-left) \*/ background-repeat: no-repeat; padding-left: 20px; }

## **Setting All List Properties At Once**

The list-style property is a shorthand property for defining all the three properties list-style-type, list-style-image, and list-style-position of a list in one place.

The following style rule sets all the list properties in a single declaration.

#### **Example**

[Try this code »](https://www.tutorialrepublic.com/codelab.php?topic=css&file=list-style-shorthand-property)

ul { list-style: square inside url("images/bullet.png"); }

**Note:** When using the list-style shorthand property, the orders of the values are: list-style-type | list-style-position | list-style-image. It does not matter if one of the values above is missing as long as the rest are in the specified order.

## **Creating Navigation Menus Using Lists**

HTML lists are frequently used to create horizontal navigation bar or menu that typically appear at the top of a website. But since the list items are block elements, so to display them inline we need to use the CSS display property. Let's try out an example to see how it really works:

#### **Example**

[Try this code »](https://www.tutorialrepublic.com/codelab.php?topic=css&file=building-navigation-bar-with-list)

ul { padding: 0; list-style: none; background: #f2f2f2; } ul li { display: inline-block; } ul li a { display: block; padding: 10px 25px; color: #333; text-decoration: none; } ul li a:hover { color: #fff; background: #939393; }

You will learn about the CSS [display](https://www.tutorialrepublic.com/css-tutorial/css-display.php) and [padding](https://www.tutorialrepublic.com/css-tutorial/css-padding.php) properties in detail in upcoming chapters.