

# 3 Ways of Incorporating CSS into your Web Pages

CSS is a very flexible language. You can incorporate CSS into your HTML files in three different ways:

- Inline style
- Internal style sheet
- External style sheet

## Inline Style

An inline style can be applied to a single element in your HTML file by using the style attribute. The value of the style attribute will contain the CSS properties you want to set for that element. For example, inline CSS is being used in the code below to

```
<h1 style="color:red;text-align:left;">This is a red, left-aligned heading</h1>
```

**\*\*\*Tip:** Use inline CSS sparingly because it mixes content with presentation, which goes against the reason for using CSS in the first place. Normally, you will want to use an external style sheet, but you can use inline style if you want to override formatting declared in your external style sheet for one particular element on your page.

## Internal Style Sheet

Another way to incorporate CSS into your web pages is by using an internal style sheet. This can be used if you want one page on your website to have a unique style, because it can override formatting in any external style sheet that you are using. To use this method, put your CSS declaration blocks between a pair of `<style> </style>` tags in the head section of your HTML file, like this:

```
<head>
<style>
body {
    background-color: yellow;
}

h1 {
    color: green;
    text-align:left;
}
</style>
</head>
```

## External Style Sheet

Finally, you can incorporate CSS into your web pages using an external style sheet. This is the preferred method because you can link the same CSS style sheet into multiple HTML pages on your website, assuring a consistent look and feel across all pages of your website. This method

also facilitates easy maintenance of your website because you can update the formatting across your entire website by changing code in just 1 CSS file.

To create an external style sheet, you create a new file in a text editor and write only your CSS declaration blocks in that file and then save it with a unique file name that ends with a .css extension. CSS files do not contain any HTML code. For example, an entire CSS file could contain only the code in the example below:

```
body {  
    background-color: yellow;  
}  
  
h1 {  
    color: green;  
    text-align:left;  
}
```

As you can see in the example above, the CSS declarations for this external style sheet were simply copied from between the <style> </style> tags in the previous example of the internal style sheet and put in a blank file that will become your external style sheet. You do not include the <style> </style> tags in your external style sheet because they are HTML code and CSS files cannot contain any HTML code.

To link an external style sheet into an HTML file, you need to add the following link tag into the head section of your HTML file (changing the file name to match the name that you gave your own CSS file):

```
<link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="mystyle.css">
```

Note that the above example assumes that the file "mystyle.css" is in the same folder as the HTML file to which you are adding this link tag. You need to use a relative path in your link tag, so if your stylesheet were located in a sub-folder, for example, named "styles", then you would include the sub-folder name in the path, like this: href="styles/mystyle.css". If you need to review relative file paths, please read this [page](#).

You can read more about, and see more examples of, Inline CSS, Internal Style Sheets, and External Style Sheets [here](#).