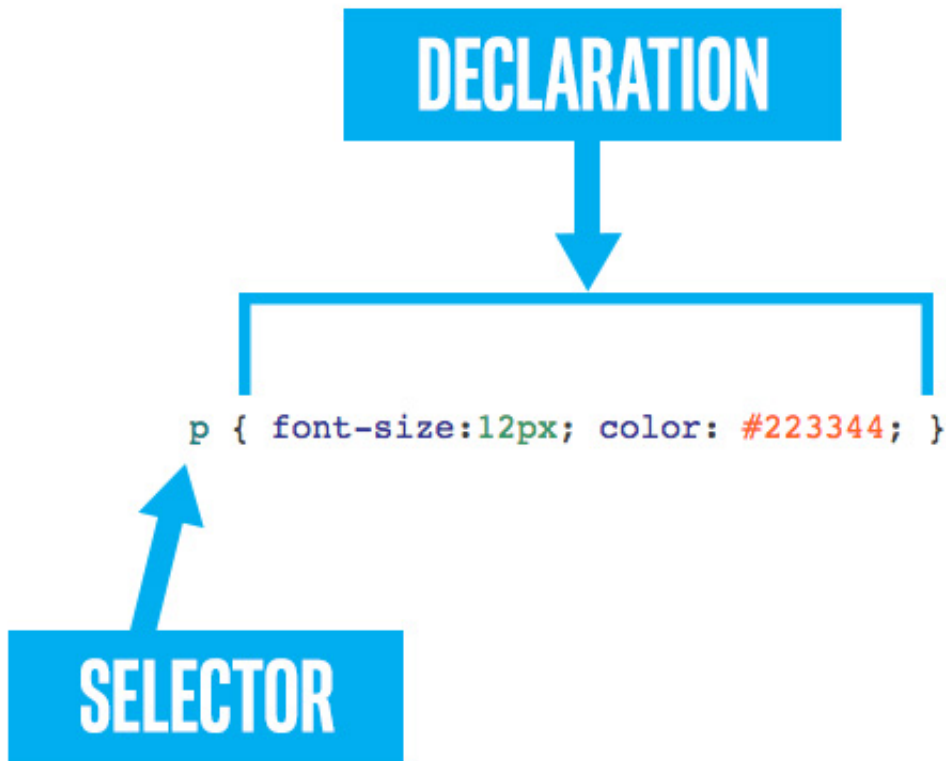


Rules: selectors and declarations

At its simplest, CSS is just a list of *rules*. Each *rule* consists of a *selector* and a *declaration*. Here is an example:



SELECTOR

In the above, the *selector* is **p**. When a selector appears unprefixed by any punctuation, then it is assumed to match to an HTML tag. Thus, the **p** selector will apply the CSS rule to all `<p>` tags in the document.

We will cover more selector possibilities in the future.

DECLARATION

The *declaration* part of a CSS rule opens and closes with curly braces: `{ }` And between them

go any number of *property value* pairs.

PROPERTIES AND VALUES

There are hundreds of different visual properties that may be set via CSS. And each property has a range of possible values that it can be set to. Syntactically, property value pairs are simple. Each pair consists of a *property*, followed by a colon `:` followed by a *value* and terminated by a semi-colon `;`

```
font-size: 12px;
```

BEST PRACTICES

In the example above, the entire CSS rule is written on one line. This is not uncommon when the declaration of the CSS rule only has one property. But if a CSS rule has several properties, then it should be written so as to use one line per property value pair, like so:

```
p {  
  font-size: 12px;  
  line-height: 15px;  
  color: #223344;  
}
```