

Common issues with the use of CSS classes

- When to have classes
- What name to use
- BEM or not?

When to have a class (Generally)

- Element selectors for defaults
 - `` will look like this by default
 - `<button>` will look like this by default
- If you are styling HTML that you don't control
 - Use "compound" selectors of whatever
- Otherwise, use a class
 - Mostly a **single** class
 - Compound only when using a "state"
 - Ex: menus having open/active ancestor

You generally want to style by class names

- Ideally, styling a single class name
 - BEM is good for that
 - But BEM not required
- Not by general element type
 - Makes it harder to add elements to page
- Not by complex nested selectors
 - Specificity can be different
- Class names help explain your HTML structure

Rule of thumb for classes

- Will this element be styled?
 - Give it a class
- Will this element be interactive?
 - Give it a class

Why do we want classes?

- All selectors using single classes
 - Same specificity
- Makes CSS more readable
- CSS breaks less often when HTML changes

```
main div div a {  
  /* styling */  
}
```

VS

```
.card__link {  
  /* styling */  
}
```

BEM Style

- BEM style is an option for this course
 - A classname is either BEM or it is not
- BEM style:
 - BLOCK, ELEMENT, MODIFIER each semantic
 - Each a meaningful name
 - `.BLOCK`
 - `.BLOCK--MODIFIER`
 - `.BLOCK__ELEMENT`
 - `.BLOCK__ELEMENT--MODIFIER`
- BEM is for humans
 - "It works" is talking about the computer

BEM Block

- `.BLOCK`
- A "chunk" of the page
- Just a semantic label
 - Including being `kebab-case`
 - Multiple words connected by single hyphen
 - All lowercase
- No different than non-BEM Semantic labels
 - Benefit comes when we add elements
- Blocks can appear inside other blocks
 - Use when you will use/style parts inside

BEM Element

- `.BLOCK_ELEMENT`
 - Exactly two underscores!
 - Only two parts
 - One Block
 - One Element
- ELEMENT is subblock
 - Might be actual semantic element type
 - Might be a semantic class name
 - Same `kebab-case` naming rules

BEM Modifier

- `.BLOCK_ELEMENT--MODIFIER`
- Will be `.BLOCK_ELEMENT` as well!
 - Have both class names
- Exactly two underscores
- Exactly two hyphens
- MODIFIER is a semantic *state*
 - `open`, `active`, etc
 - same `kebab-case` rule
 - Can also be a *variation*
 - Same basic element, different version

Not Using BEM? Not a problem!

- Course requires for EVERY class name:
 - Semantic
 - Name describes block/contents
 - `kebab-case`
 - No underscores
- Outside of course
 - Lots of different rules sets (still rules!)
- Either way, want to use classes
 - Styled elements
 - Elements targeted by JS
 - Elements modified by JS