



# What is **:is()** and **:where()** in CSS

like and share



The `:is()` pseudoclass function takes a selector list as its argument and selects any element that can be selected by one of the selectors in that list.



```
:is(header, main, footer) p:hover {  
    color: red;  
    cursor: pointer;  
}
```



The above is equivalent to  
the following



```
header p:hover,  
main p:hover,  
footer p:hover {  
    color: red;  
    cursor: pointer;  
}
```

This is useful for  
writing large  
selectors in a more  
compact form.





## The **same** thing can be done with `:where()`

The CSS pseudoclass function `:where()` takes a list of selectors as an argument and selects any element that can be selected by one of the selectors in that list.

```
● ○ ●  
:where(header, main, footer) p:hover {  
    color: red;  
    cursor: pointer;  
}
```

```
● ○ ●  
header p:hover,  
main p:hover,  
footer p:hover {  
    color: red;  
    cursor: pointer;  
}
```

The above is equivalent  
to the following





But wait both of them look  
**identical** then what's the  
difference?

Swipe to find out





# The difference is of specificity

In CSS, If there are **two or more CSS rules** that point to the same element, the selector with the **highest specificity value** will "win", and its style declaration will be applied to that HTML element.





# Priorities

So basically, neither `:where()` nor anything inside it counts for specificity. Its **specificity** is always **0**.

On the other hand, everything inside the `:is()` pseudoclass counts for specificity.

So which one to use?





It completely depends on your goals.

You can use `:is()` pseudoclass if you want to `reduce` the selector duplication.

However, if you want `lower specificity` as well then `:where()` is the way to go!



# Do you find it helpful?

let me know down in the  
comments !



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