

HTML & CSS for Beginners

Section 2: CSS

2.1 Inline CSS

CSS stands for Cascading Style Sheets and are used to decorate and add style to HTML files to make the website/webapp to have a professional aesthetic.

As the name suggests, inline CSS means that the style is added inside of the HTML tag element. The style attribute is added to the element and its value is then set to a CSS styling using the CSS syntax.

By default the text colour is black and the font size is 16px. We can change the default style using CSS. Below is an example of inline CSS changing the text colour to green and the font size to 30px.

```
<p style="color: green; font-size: 30px;">Deciding what not to do is as important as deciding what to do.</p>
```

Deciding what not to do is as important as deciding what to do.

Note: The green square box is displayed using the VS Code's Color Picker extension. This would typically not be displayed in the text editor without the extension added.

Important Disclaimer: Inline CSS is not recommended as best practice. However, it is important to understand that this is a possibility for styling a HTML document.

2.2 Internal & External CSS

An internal CSS is created by using the `<style></style>` element tags nested inside of the `<head></head>` element tags. This allows the HTML file to use the internal CSS style for rendering the web page.

```
<head>
  <meta charset="UTF-8">
  <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
  <title>Internal CSS</title>
  <style>
    p {
      color: green;
      font-size: 30px;
    }
  </style>
```

We would use the CSS syntax inside of the style element tags. This will result in the same style behaviour as seen in the inline CSS example.

This style will target all paragraph elements.

Important Disclaimer: Internal CSS is not recommended as best practice. However, it is important to understand that this is also a possibility for styling a HTML document.

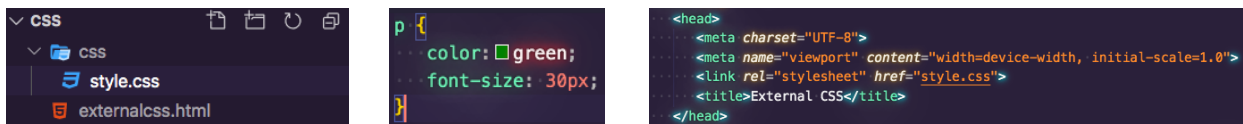
To create an External CSS we would need to create a new directory within our root project directory called `css`. This will contain our external `.css` file typically named `style.css`.

In this `.css` file we would use the CSS syntax by targeting the element and then in the curly brackets defining the style/decoration for that element. We do not require the `<style></style>` HTML element tags in the `.css` file.

The HTML file can import this external `css` file and extract the style/decorations to apply to the HTML elements in the document.

The `<link rel="stylesheet" href="css/style.css">` element tags which is a self-closing element tag is used inside of the `<head></head>` element tags to import external CSS files.

The `rel` attribute describes the relationship of the file imported and the `href` attribute points to the location of the `.css` file relative to the HTML file importing it.



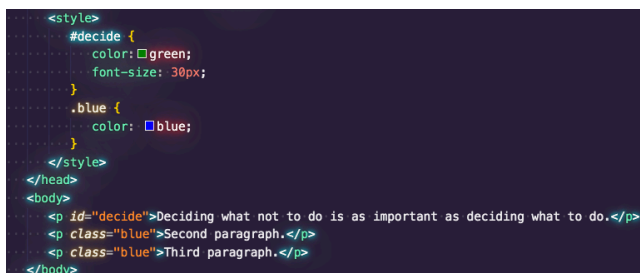
Important Disclaimer: External CSS is recommended as best practice. This allows you to break up the code into separate files which makes it much easier to update and maintain the code.

2.3 Classes & IDs

There are two attributes available to use on all HTML element tags: `class` and `id`. These attributes allow us to target our CSS style to individual elements across multiple elements.

Two elements cannot have the same `id` and therefore `id` attribute values must be unique. The `class` attribute value can be shared across multiple elements.

The CSS syntax to target an element by its `id` is to use the pound sign (`#`) followed by the `id` name. To target a class the syntax is to use the period sign (`.`) followed by the class name.



Deciding what not to do is as important as deciding what to do.

Second paragraph.

Third paragraph.

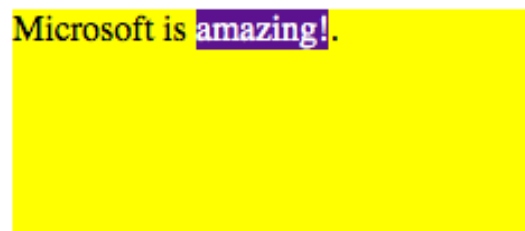
2.4 Div & Span

A `<div></div>` element tag is a HTML section tag which groups a block elements. The division element is then used to style these elements using CSS. The division element is a block element.

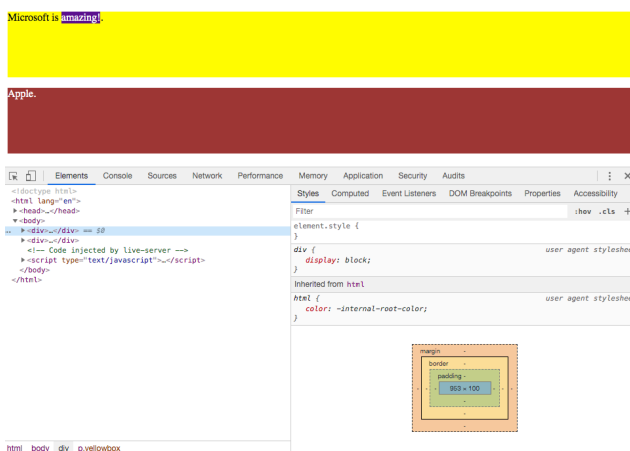
A `` element tag is an inline element which is used to group inline elements and style them using CSS.

There are multiple ways of selecting a colour in CSS. We can either select a colour by its name, by its hexadecimal value, RGB value and RGBA value.

```
<!--><style>
.yellowbox {
  background-color: yellow;
  height: 100px;
  width: auto;
}
.redbox {
  background-color: rgb(157, 56, 56);
  color: white;
  height: 100px;
  width: auto;
}
.amazing {
  background-color: #5b128f;
  color: white;
}
</style>
</head>
<body>
<div>
<p class="yellowbox">Microsoft is <span class="amazing">amazing!</span>.</p>
</div>
<div>
<p class="redbox">Apple.</p>
</div>
</body>
```



2.5 Box Model (Padding, Border, Outline, Margin)



If we open our HTML document in the web browser and open the web browser's developer tool, if we navigate to the Elements tab and select a element in the HTML document we should be able to see the Styles and the box model diagram.

Every element is encapsulated in a box model. The box model is a critical concept to understand with CSS and styling elements.

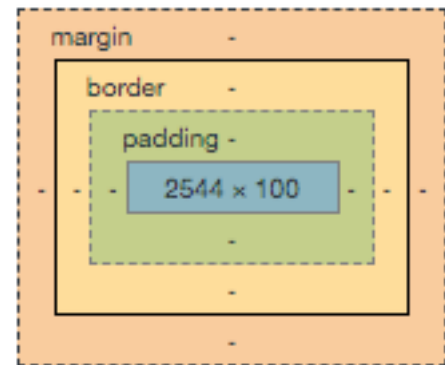
In the above example we have selected the `<div></div>` element which wraps the `.yellowbox` paragraph element.

The blue box in the box model represents the content of the element.

The green box represents the padding which is the distance between the content and the border.

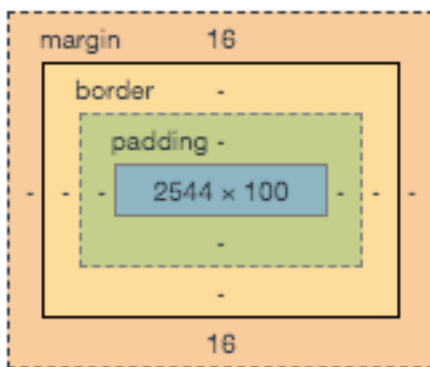
The orange box represents the border.

The peach box represents the margin which separates the HTML element from elements around it.



There is a outline element which is just outside the border but before the margin as highlighted by the thick black border. The outline does not effect the dimensions of the HTML element.

In the above example the padding, border and margin box model for the `<div></div>` element has not been set i.e. there are no padding, border or margin for the element.



All HTML elements follow this box model.

If we click on the `<p></p>` element inside of the division element, the box model will update to display the calculations of the content, padding, border and margin for the selected paragraph element tag.

Example on the left is the box model for the paragraph element inside of the division element. The margin for paragraph elements are set by default to 16px.

The padding property is used in the CSS to define a custom padding. There are different ways of defining the padding, for example:

property: value (example)	Description
padding: 16px;	Adds 16px on all sides
padding: 10px 5px 7px 3em;	Adds padding to the top, right, bottom and left side of the content (in that order)
padding: 40px 10px;	Adds padding to the top and bottom and right and left side of the content (in that grouping)

```

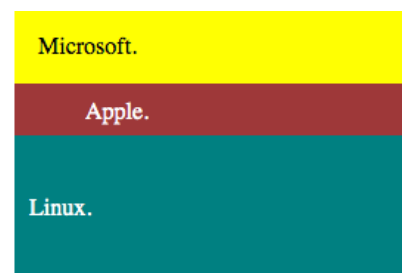
.yellowbox {
  background-color: yellow;
  height: auto;
  width: auto;
  padding: 16px;
}
.redbox {
  background-color: rgb(157, 56, 56);
  color: white;
  height: auto;
  width: auto;
  padding: 10px 5px 7px 3em;
}
.greenbox {
  background-color: #008080;
  color: white;
  height: auto;
  width: auto;
  padding: 40px 10px;
}
p {
  margin: 0;
}

```

```

<div class="yellowbox">
  <p>Microsoft.</p>
</div>
<div class="redbox">
  <p>Apple.</p>
</div>
<div class="greenbox">
  <p>Linux.</p>
</div>

```



Example of adding padding properties to the elements.

Note: the margin for the `<p>` elements were set to 0 as the browser default is 16px margin for paragraphs which would add extra spacing to the `<div>` element.

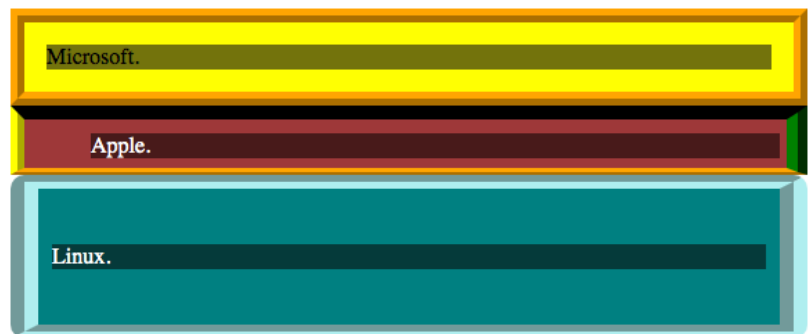
The border property is used in the CSS to define a custom border. There are different ways of defining the border, for example:

property: value (example)	Description
border: 10px orange ridge;	Defines the border width colour and style (in that order)
border-width: 10px 15px 5px 10px;	Adds border-width value to the top, right, bottom and left side (in that order). Border width is not visible without the border-style property defined
border-width: 10px 20px;	Adds border-width value to the top and bottom and right and right (in that grouping). Border width is not visible without the border-style property defined
border-color: black green orange yellow;	Defines the colour of the border-width from top, right, bottom and left (in that order). Border colour is not visible without the border-width and border-style properties defined
border-style: ridge;	Defines the style of the border e.g. ridge, dashed, dotted, double, groove, etc.
border-radius: 10px	Rounds the edges of the border

```

121 .yellowbox {
122     background-color: yellow;
123     height: auto;
124     width: auto;
125     padding: 16px;
126     border: 10px orange ridge;
127 }
128
129 .redbox {
130     background-color: rgb(157, 56, 56);
131     color: white;
132     height: auto;
133     width: auto;
134     padding: 10px 5px 7px 3em;
135     border-width: 10px 15px 5px 10px;
136     border-color: black green orange yellow;
137     border-style: ridge;
138 }
139
140 .greenbox {
141     background-color: #008080;
142     color: white;
143     height: auto;
144     width: auto;
145     padding: 40px 10px;
146     border-width: 10px 20px;
147     border-color: paleturquoise;
148     border-style: groove;
149     border-radius: 10px;
150 }
151
152 p {
153     margin: 0;
154     background-color: rgba(0, 0, 0, 0.55);
155 }

```



We can create a circle border `<div>` element by adding values to the height and width and a unified padding and border-width and a large border-radius value as seen below:



```
.greenbox {
  background-color: #008080;
  color: white;
  height: 100px;
  width: 100px;
  padding: 10px;
  border-width: 10px;
  border-color: paleturquoise;
  border-style: groove;
  border-radius: 80px;
}
```

An outline is a line that is drawn around the HTML element. Unlike borders the outline is not taken into account in the dimensions of the element. Outlines are used to make elements stand out.

property: value (example)	Description
outline-style: solid;	Defines the outline style e.g. dashed, dotted, double, groove, solid, etc.
outline-color: purple;	Defines the colour for the outline
outline-width: medium;	Defines the outline width e.g. medium, thick, thin, etc.

```

<div class="yellowbox">
  <div>Microsoft</div>
</div>

.yellowbox {
  background-color: yellow;
  height: auto;
  width: auto;
  padding: 16px;
  border: 10px orange ridge;
  outline-style: solid;
  outline-color: purple;
  outline-width: thick;
}

```



Note: The outline is not taken into account in the dimensions of the element.

Margin allows us to add a gap between itself and any other elements outside the element. To set the margin on an element we would use the margin property. There are different ways to set the margin style:

property: value (example)	Description
margin: 20px;	Adds 20px on all sides
margin: 60px 10px 30px 20px;	Adds margin to the top, right, bottom and left side (in that order)
padding: 30px 10px;	Adds margin to the top and bottom and right and left side (in that grouping)

```

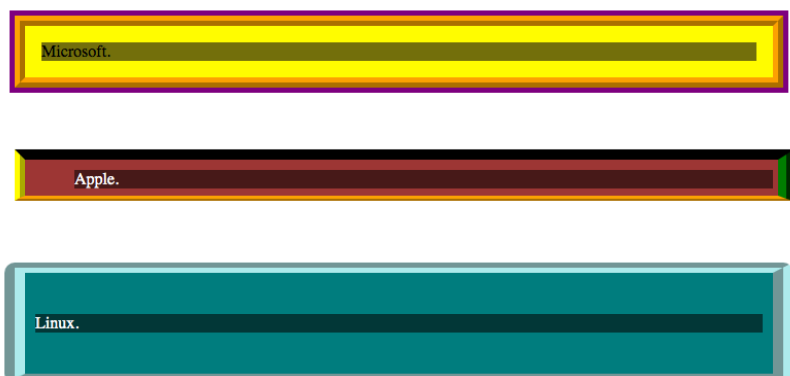
<div class="yellowbox">
  <div>Microsoft</div>
</div>
<div class="redbox">
  <div>Apple</div>
</div>
<div class="greenbox">
  <div>Linux</div>
</div>

.yellowbox {
  background-color: yellow;
  height: auto;
  width: auto;
  padding: 16px;
  border: 10px orange ridge;
  outline-style: solid;
  outline-color: purple;
  outline-width: thick;
  margin: 20px;
}

.redbox {
  background-color: rgb(157, 56, 56);
  color: white;
  height: auto;
  width: auto;
  padding: 10px 5px 7px 3em;
  border-width: 10px 15px 5px 10px;
  border-color: black green orange yellow;
  border-style: ridge;
  margin: 60px 10px 30px 20px;
}

.greenbox {
  background-color: #008080;
  color: white;
  height: auto;
  width: auto;
  padding: 40px 10px;
  border-width: 10px 20px;
  border-color: paleturquoise;
  border-style: groove;
  border-radius: 10px;
  margin: 60px 10px;
}

```



The distance between the first and second element will be the sum of the margin-bottom of the first element and the margin-top of the second element.