

CSS Pseudo-classes

A CSS pseudo-class is a keyword that can be added to a selector, to define a style for a special state of an element.

Some common use for pseudo-classes:

- Style an element when a user moves the mouse over it
- Style visited and unvisited links differently
- Style an element when it gets focus
- Style valid/invalid/required/optional form elements
- Style an element that is the first child of its parent

Syntax

Pseudo-classes are always denoted by a single colon (:) followed by the pseudo-class name:

```
selector:pseudo-class-name {  
  CSS properties  
}
```

Here we use the :hover pseudo-class and the :focus pseudo-class:

Mouse Over Me

Pseudo-classes Used on Links

For HTML links, it is common to use the following pseudo-classes:

- :link - Styles unvisited links
- :visited - Styles visited links
- :hover - Styles an link on mouse over
- :active - Styles an activated link

Example

Display links in different colors depending on state:

```
/* unvisited link */
a:link {
    color: #FF0000;
}

/* visited link */
a:visited {
    color: #00FF00;
}

/* mouse over link */
a:hover {
    color: #FF00FF;
}

/* selected link */
a:active {
    color: #0000FF;
}
```

:hover on <div>

Here is an example of using the [:hover](#) pseudo-class on a <div> element:

Example

```
div:hover {
    background-color: blue;
}
```

:focus on <input>

Here is an example of using the [:focus](#) pseudo-class to style an input field when it gets focus:

Example

```
input:focus {  
  background-color: yellow;  
}
```

Pseudo-classes and HTML Classes

Pseudo-classes can easily be combined with HTML classes:

Example

Add a :hover pseudo-class to the <a> element with class "highlight":

```
a.highlight:hover {  
  color: #ff0000;  
}
```

Simple Tooltip Hover

Hover over a <div> element to show a <p> element (like a tooltip):

Hover over me to show the <p> element.

Example

```
p {  
  display: none;  
  background-color: yellow;  
  padding: 20px;  
}
```

```
div:hover p {  
  display: block;  
}
```

CSS Pseudo-Elements

A CSS pseudo-element is a keyword that can be added to a selector, to style a specific part of an element.

Some common use for pseudo-elements:

- Style the first letter or first line, of an element
- Insert content before or after an element
- Style the markers of list items
- Style the user-selected portion of an element
- Style the viewbox behind a dialog box

Syntax

Pseudo-elements are denoted by a double colon (::) followed by the pseudo-element name:

```
selector::pseudo-element-name {  
  CSS properties  
}
```

The CSS ::first-line Pseudo-element

The ::first-line pseudo-element is used to add a special style to the first line of a text.

Example

Format the first line of text in all <p> elements:

```
p::first-line {  
  color: red;  
  font-variant: small-caps;  
  font-size: 19px;  
}
```

The CSS `::first-letter` Pseudo-element

The `::first-letter` pseudo-element is used to add a special style to the first letter of a text.

Example

Format the first letter of the text in all `<p>` elements:

```
p::first-letter {  
  color: red;  
  font-size: xx-large;  
}
```

The CSS `::before` Pseudo-element

The `::before` pseudo-element is used to insert some content before the content of a specified element.

Use the `content` property to specify the content to insert.

Example

Insert an image before the content of each `<h3>` element:

```
h3::before {  
  content: url(smiley.gif);  
}
```

The CSS `::after` Pseudo-element

The `::after` pseudo-element is used to insert some content after the content of a specified element.

Use the `content` property to specify the content to insert.

Example

Insert an image after the content of each `<h3>` element:

```
h3::after {  
  content: url(smiley.gif);  
}
```

The CSS `::marker` Pseudo-element

The `::marker` pseudo-element is used to style the list item markers.

Example

Style the markers of list items:

```
::marker {  
  color: red;  
  font-size: 23px;  
}
```

The CSS `::selection` Pseudo-element

The `::selection` pseudo-element is used to style the part of a text that is selected by a user.

Example

Style the user-selected text with a red color, and a yellow background:

```
::selection {  
  color: red;  
  background: yellow;  
}
```

The CSS `::backdrop` Pseudo-element

The `::backdrop` pseudo-element is used to style the viewbox behind a dialog box or popover element..

Example

Style the viewbox behind a dialog box:

```
dialog::backdrop {  
  background-color: lightgreen;  
}
```
