Anchor Pseudo-classes

Links can be displayed in different ways:

Example

/\* 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;  
}

[Try it Yourself »](https://www.w3schools.com/css/tryit.asp?filename=trycss_link)

**Note:** a:hover MUST come after a:link and a:visited in the CSS definition in order to be effective! a:active MUST come after a:hover in the CSS definition in order to be effective! Pseudo-class names are not case-sensitive.

Pseudo-classes and CSS Classes

Pseudo-classes can be combined with CSS classes:

When you hover over the link in the example, it will change color:

Example

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

[Try it Yourself »](https://www.w3schools.com/css/tryit.asp?filename=trycss_pseudo-class)

Hover on <div>

An example of using the :hover pseudo-class on a <div> element:

Example

div:hover {  
    background-color: blue;  
}

[Try it Yourself »](https://www.w3schools.com/css/tryit.asp?filename=trycss_pseudo-class_hover_div)

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;  
}

[Try it Yourself »](https://www.w3schools.com/css/tryit.asp?filename=trycss_pseudo-class_hover_tooltip)

CSS - The :first-child Pseudo-class

The :first-child pseudo-class matches a specified element that is the first child of another element.

Match the first <p> element

In the following example, the selector matches any <p> element that is the first child of any element:

Example

p:first-child {  
    color: blue;  
}

[Try it Yourself »](https://www.w3schools.com/css/tryit.asp?filename=trycss_first-child1)

Match the first <i> element in all <p> elements

In the following example, the selector matches the first <i> element in all <p> elements:

Example

p i:first-child {  
    color: blue;  
}

[Try it Yourself »](https://www.w3schools.com/css/tryit.asp?filename=trycss_first-child2)

Match all <i> elements in all first child <p> elements

In the following example, the selector matches all <i> elements in <p> elements that are the first child of another element:

Example

p:first-child i {  
    color: blue;  
}

[Try it Yourself »](https://www.w3schools.com/css/tryit.asp?filename=trycss_first-child3)

CSS - The :lang Pseudo-class

The :lang pseudo-class allows you to define special rules for different languages.

In the example below, :lang defines the quotation marks for <q> elements with lang="no":

Example

<html>  
<head>  
<style>  
q:lang(no) {  
    quotes: "~" "~";  
}  
</style>  
</head>  
  
<body>  
<p>Some text <q lang="no">A quote in a paragraph</q> Some text.</p>  
</body>  
</html>

[Try it Yourself »](https://www.w3schools.com/css/tryit.asp?filename=trycss_lang)

The ::first-line Pseudo-element

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

The following example formats the first line of the text in all <p> elements:

Example

p::first-line {  
    color: #ff0000;  
    font-variant: small-caps;  
}

[Try it Yourself »](https://www.w3schools.com/css/tryit.asp?filename=trycss_firstline)

**Note:** The ::first-line pseudo-element can only be applied to block-level elements.

The following properties apply to the ::first-line pseudo-element:

* font properties
* color properties
* background properties
* word-spacing
* letter-spacing
* text-decoration
* vertical-align
* text-transform
* line-height
* clear

The ::first-letter Pseudo-element

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

The following example formats the first letter of the text in all <p> elements:

Example

p::first-letter {  
    color: #ff0000;  
    font-size: xx-large;  
}

[Try it Yourself »](https://www.w3schools.com/css/tryit.asp?filename=trycss_firstletter)

**Note:** The ::first-letter pseudo-element can only be applied to block-level elements.

The following properties apply to the ::first-letter pseudo- element:

* font properties
* color properties
* background properties
* margin properties
* padding properties
* border properties
* text-decoration
* vertical-align (only if "float" is "none")
* text-transform
* line-height
* float
* clear

Pseudo-elements and CSS Classes

Pseudo-elements can be combined with CSS classes:

Example

p.intro::first-letter {  
    color: #ff0000;  
    font-size:200%;  
}

[Try it Yourself »](https://www.w3schools.com/css/tryit.asp?filename=trycss_pseudo-element)

The example above will display the first letter of paragraphs with class="intro", in red and in a larger size.

Multiple Pseudo-elements

Several pseudo-elements can also be combined.

In the following example, the first letter of a paragraph will be red, in an xx-large font size. The rest of the first line will be blue, and in small-caps. The rest of the paragraph will be the default font size and color:

Example

p::first-letter {  
    color: #ff0000;  
    font-size: xx-large;  
}  
  
p::first-line {  
    color: #0000ff;  
    font-variant: small-caps;  
}

[Try it Yourself »](https://www.w3schools.com/css/tryit.asp?filename=trycss_firstline_letter)

CSS - The ::before Pseudo-element

The ::before pseudo-element can be used to insert some content before the content of an element.

The following example inserts an image before the content of each <h1> element:

Example

h1::before {  
    content: url(smiley.gif);  
}

[Try it Yourself »](https://www.w3schools.com/css/tryit.asp?filename=trycss_before)

CSS - The ::after Pseudo-element

The ::after pseudo-element can be used to insert some content after the content of an element.

The following example inserts an image after the content of each <h1> element:

Example

h1::after {  
    content: url(smiley.gif);  
}

[Try it Yourself »](https://www.w3schools.com/css/tryit.asp?filename=trycss_after)

CSS - The ::selection Pseudo-element

The ::selection pseudo-element matches the portion of an element that is selected by a user.

The following CSS properties can be applied to ::selection: color, background, cursor, and outline.

The following example makes the selected text red on a yellow background:

Example

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

[Try it Yourself »](https://www.w3schools.com/css/tryit.asp?filename=trycss3_selection)

Test Yourself with Exercises!

[Exercise 1 »](https://www.w3schools.com/css/exercise.asp?filename=exercise_pseudo_elements1)  [Exercise 2 »](https://www.w3schools.com/css/exercise.asp?filename=exercise_pseudo_elements2)  [Exercise 3 »](https://www.w3schools.com/css/exercise.asp?filename=exercise_pseudo_elements3)

All CSS Pseudo Elements

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Selector** | **Example** | **Example description** |
| [::after](https://www.w3schools.com/cssref/sel_after.asp) | p::after | Insert something after the content of each <p> element |
| [::before](https://www.w3schools.com/cssref/sel_before.asp) | p::before | Insert something before the content of each <p> element |
| [::first-letter](https://www.w3schools.com/cssref/sel_firstletter.asp) | p::first-letter | Selects the first letter of each <p> element |
| [::first-line](https://www.w3schools.com/cssref/sel_firstline.asp) | p::first-line | Selects the first line of each <p> element |
| [::selection](https://www.w3schools.com/cssref/sel_selection.asp) | p::selection | Selects the portion of an element that is selected by a user |

All CSS Pseudo Classes

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Selector** | **Example** | **Example description** |
| [:active](https://www.w3schools.com/cssref/sel_active.asp) | a:active | Selects the active link |
| [:checked](https://www.w3schools.com/cssref/sel_checked.asp) | input:checked | Selects every checked <input> element |
| [:disabled](https://www.w3schools.com/cssref/sel_disabled.asp) | input:disabled | Selects every disabled <input> element |
| [:empty](https://www.w3schools.com/cssref/sel_empty.asp) | p:empty | Selects every <p> element that has no children |
| [:enabled](https://www.w3schools.com/cssref/sel_enabled.asp) | input:enabled | Selects every enabled <input> element |
| [:first-child](https://www.w3schools.com/cssref/sel_firstchild.asp) | p:first-child | Selects every <p> elements that is the first child of its parent |
| [:first-of-type](https://www.w3schools.com/cssref/sel_first-of-type.asp) | p:first-of-type | Selects every <p> element that is the first <p> element of its parent |
| [:focus](https://www.w3schools.com/cssref/sel_focus.asp) | input:focus | Selects the <input> element that has focus |
| [:hover](https://www.w3schools.com/cssref/sel_hover.asp) | a:hover | Selects links on mouse over |
| [:in-range](https://www.w3schools.com/cssref/sel_in-range.asp) | input:in-range | Selects <input> elements with a value within a specified range |
| [:invalid](https://www.w3schools.com/cssref/sel_invalid.asp) | input:invalid | Selects all <input> elements with an invalid value |
| [:lang(*language*)](https://www.w3schools.com/cssref/sel_lang.asp) | p:lang(it) | Selects every <p> element with a lang attribute value starting with "it" |
| [:last-child](https://www.w3schools.com/cssref/sel_last-child.asp) | p:last-child | Selects every <p> elements that is the last child of its parent |
| [:last-of-type](https://www.w3schools.com/cssref/sel_last-of-type.asp) | p:last-of-type | Selects every <p> element that is the last <p> element of its parent |
| [:link](https://www.w3schools.com/cssref/sel_link.asp) | a:link | Selects all unvisited links |
| [:not(selector)](https://www.w3schools.com/cssref/sel_not.asp) | :not(p) | Selects every element that is not a <p> element |
| [:nth-child(n)](https://www.w3schools.com/cssref/sel_nth-child.asp) | p:nth-child(2) | Selects every <p> element that is the second child of its parent |
| [:nth-last-child(n)](https://www.w3schools.com/cssref/sel_nth-last-child.asp) | p:nth-last-child(2) | Selects every <p> element that is the second child of its parent, counting from the last child |
| [:nth-last-of-type(n)](https://www.w3schools.com/cssref/sel_nth-last-of-type.asp) | p:nth-last-of-type(2) | Selects every <p> element that is the second <p> element of its parent, counting from the last child |
| [:nth-of-type(n)](https://www.w3schools.com/cssref/sel_nth-of-type.asp) | p:nth-of-type(2) | Selects every <p> element that is the second <p> element of its parent |
| [:only-of-type](https://www.w3schools.com/cssref/sel_only-of-type.asp) | p:only-of-type | Selects every <p> element that is the only <p> element of its parent |
| [:only-child](https://www.w3schools.com/cssref/sel_only-child.asp) | p:only-child | Selects every <p> element that is the only child of its parent |
| [:optional](https://www.w3schools.com/cssref/sel_optional.asp) | input:optional | Selects <input> elements with no "required" attribute |
| [:out-of-range](https://www.w3schools.com/cssref/sel_out-of-range.asp) | input:out-of-range | Selects <input> elements with a value outside a specified range |
| [:read-only](https://www.w3schools.com/cssref/sel_read-only.asp) | input:read-only | Selects <input> elements with a "readonly" attribute specified |
| [:read-write](https://www.w3schools.com/cssref/sel_read-write.asp) | input:read-write | Selects <input> elements with no "readonly" attribute |
| [:required](https://www.w3schools.com/cssref/sel_required.asp) | input:required | Selects <input> elements with a "required" attribute specified |
| [:root](https://www.w3schools.com/cssref/sel_root.asp) | Root | Selects the document's root element |
| [:target](https://www.w3schools.com/cssref/sel_target.asp) | #news:target | Selects the current active #news element (clicked on a URL containing that anchor name) |
| [:valid](https://www.w3schools.com/cssref/sel_valid.asp) | input:valid | Selects all <input> elements with a valid value |
| [:visited](https://www.w3schools.com/cssref/sel_visited.asp) | a:visited | Selects all visited links |

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