**Cascading Style Sheets (CSS)**

Cascading Style Sheets, or CSS, is a language used in web development to control the look and layout of web pages. While HTML is responsible for the structure and content of a page (like headings, paragraphs, and images), CSS is what makes that content visually appealing. It handles colors, fonts, spacing, alignment, and even animations.

The word *cascading* means that styles can be applied from different sources (like an external stylesheet, internal stylesheet, or inline styling), and if there’s a conflict, rules are applied in a priority order. This allows developers to manage styles in an organized way.

**Basic CSS Syntax**

CSS follows a simple pattern:

*selector {*

*property: value;*

*}*

* **Selector** → tells CSS which element to style (e.g., p for paragraphs, h1 for headings, .class for a class, #id for a unique element).
* **Property** → what you want to change (like color, font-size, margin).
* **Value** → the specific setting for that property (like blue, 16px, 20px).

Example:

**p {**

**color: blue;**

**font-size: 16px;**

**}**

This means: all <p> (paragraphs) will have blue text and a font size of 16 pixels.

**Common CSS Properties**

* color → text color
* background-color → background fill of an element
* font-size → size of the text
* font-family → type of font (like Arial, Times New Roman)
* margin → space outside an element
* padding → space inside an element (between content and border)
* border → outline around an element
* width and height → size of an element
* text-align → alignment (left, right, center)

In short, HTML gives you the skeleton of a page, and CSS is what makes it look designed rather than plain black text on a white background.