Using CSS Variables

If you're coming from the world of preprocessors, you must be used to using a variable by just referencing its name. With native css variables, things are a little different.

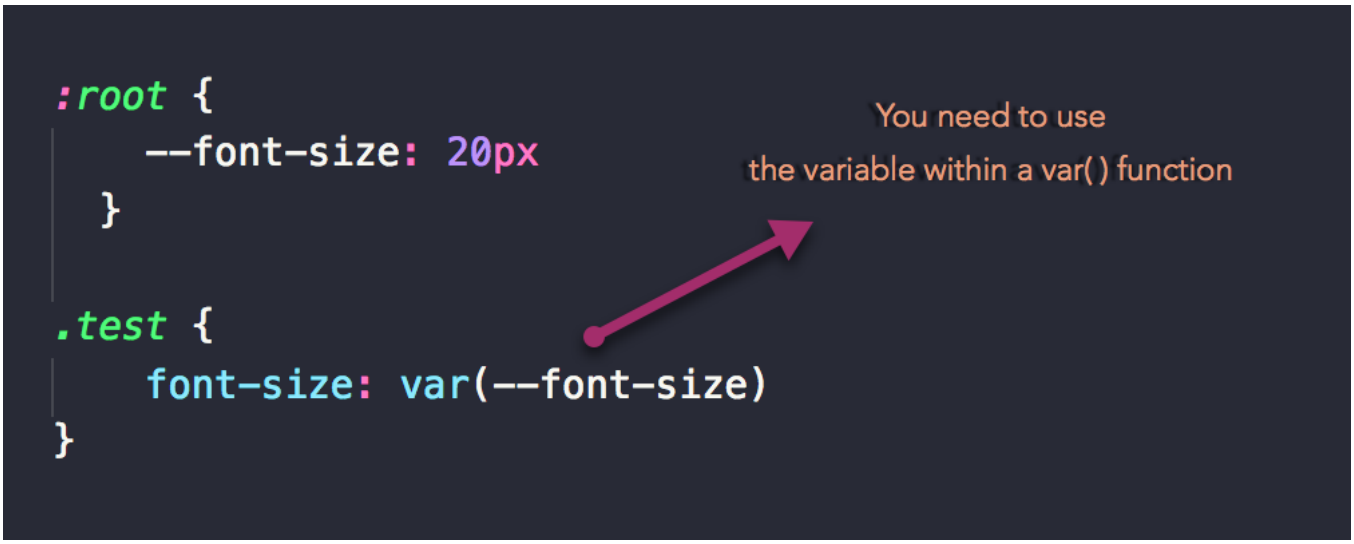
> Once a variable has been defined and assigned a value, you can go ahead and use it within a property value. There's a bit of a gotcha though.
>
> If you're coming from the world of preprocessors, you must be used to using a variable by just referencing its name.
>
> For example:

```
$font-size: 20px

.test {
   font-size: $font-size
}
```

> With native CSS variables, things are a little different. You reference a variable by using the `var()` function.
>
> With the example above, using CSS Variables will yield this:

```
:root {
   --font-size: 20px
   }

.test {
   font-size: var(--font-size)
}
```

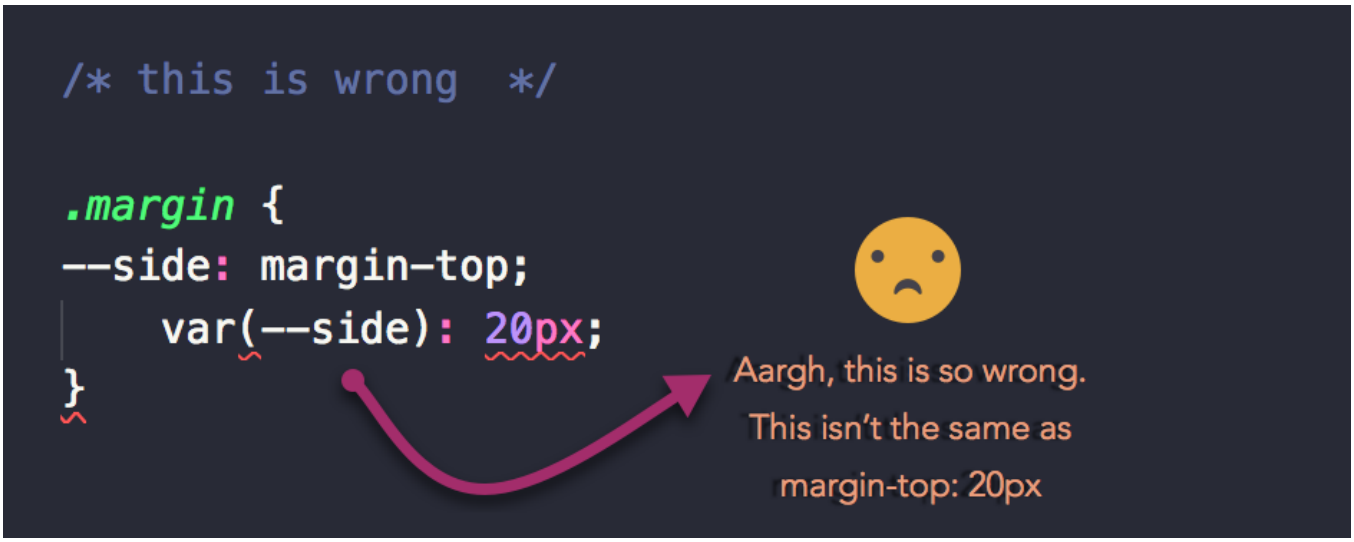
> Quite different.



Once you get that out of the way, you'll begin to love CSS variables - a lot!

Another important to note is that unlike SASS (or other preprocessor) variables where you can use the variables in a lot of places, and do math like you want, you need to be careful with CSS variables. You'll mostly have them set as property values.

```
/*this is wrong*/
.margin {
  --side: margin-top;
  var(--side): 20px;
}
```



You also can't do math. You need the CSS `calc()` function for that. I'll discuss

examples as we proceed.

```
/*this is wrong */
.margin {
  --space: 20px * 2;
  font-size:  var(--space);  /*not 40px*/
}
```

If you must do math, then use the calc() function like so:

```
.margin {
  --space: calc(20px * 2);
  font-size:  var(--space);  /*equals 40px*/
}
```