How CSS rules work

What is CSS and what is it used for? The previous lesson answered this question. In this lesson, we will explore CSS selectors, properties, and values. What is the difference between these?
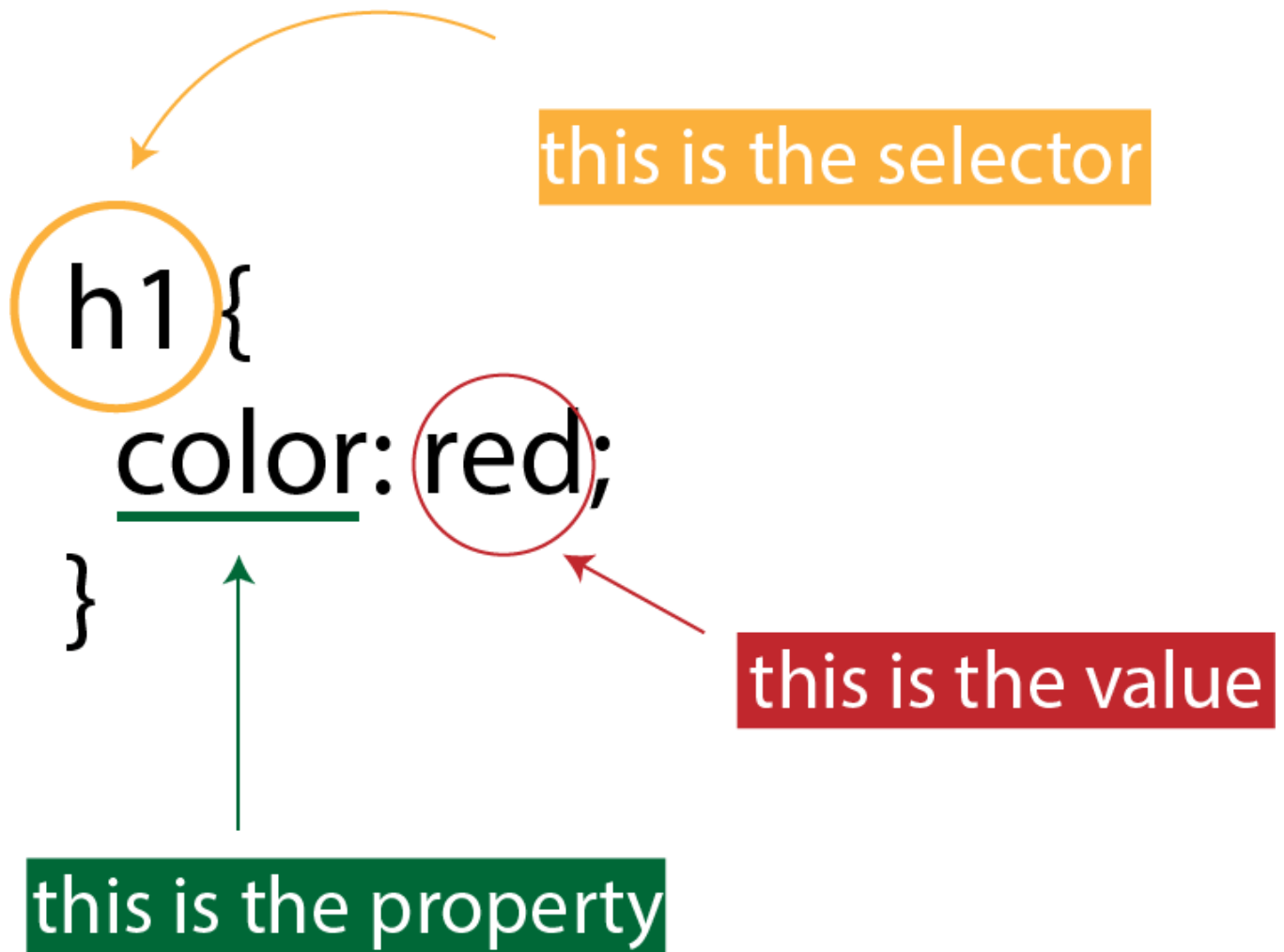
CSS is a fun language, and it is quite easy to pick up.

Let's take a look at a very basic CSS rule. By "rule" I mean a *piece* of CSS code.

```
1  h1 {
2    color: red;
3  }
```

A basic css declaration.

You may not have not noticed, but this basic css rule can be broken into a few bits.

this is the selector

h1 {
  color: red;
}

this is the property

this is the value

The `h1` selector in the rule says, *select all `h1` elements in the document.*

The `color` property says, *"okay, let's style the color of the `h1` elements"*

The `red` value says, *"alright everyone. The value for the color property will be set to red"*

Example

Let's see an example of how this would work in real life.

Consider the markup below. It is essentially a simple document with multiple `h1` elements.

```
<html>
  <head></head>
  <body>
    <h1>I am number 1</h1>
    <h1>I am number 2</h1>
    <h1>I am number 3</h1>
    <h1>I am number 4</h1>
    <h1>I am number 5</h1>
```

```
    </body>
</html>
```

Let's apply the rule we discussed above:

```css
h1 {
    color: red;
}
```

Alright, here is the result of that:

Output
HTML
CSS (SCSS)

I am number 1

I am number 2

I am number 3

I am number 4

I am number 5

What do you see?

All `h1` elements now have a color of red. **Note that the css rule only targeted ALL the `h1` elements.**

To demonstrate this, I have added an `h2` tag in the markup below.

Does it also get the color of red?

Output
HTML
CSS (SCSS)

I am an h2 tag and NOT red

I am number 1

I am number 2

I am number 3

I am number 4

I am number 5

No, it doesn't. It remains `black`.

Don't forget to see the `html` and `css` tabs in the code above.

Exercises

1. As a simple exercise, style the `h2` tag in the code above. Give it a color of `green`.

2. Go back to the css rule you have written in `1` above. Note the use of white spaces and the curly braces (you may take a look at my examples)

Can you do these before moving on?