

Rems

I call `rem`, the root `em`. Assuming the “r” comes from the word, “root”. While this may not be the general way people describe the `rem` unit, it will help you form great mental models.

The `em` unit scales against the font-size of the parent element, BUT the `rem` unit will only scale against the `root` element.

The `root` element here is usually, the `html` element.

Let’s see an example:

If you wrote this:

```
1  html {  
2    font-size: 14px;  
3  }
```



Anywhere in your style where you use the `rem` unit, it will scale against the `14px` you have set on the `root` element i.e `html`

Bring back the markup used earlier:

```
1  <!DOCTYPE>  
2  <html>  
3    <head>  
4      <title>  
5        The Problem with the EM u  
6      </title>  
7    </head>  
8    <body>  
9      <div class="one">  
10        One Hello World!  
11      <div class="two">  
12        Two Hello World  
13      <div class="th  
14        Three Hello Wo  
15      </div>  
16    </div>  
17  </div>  
18  </body>
```



```
18 | | | </body>  
19 | </html>
```

Regardless of the font-size you use, the nested elements will only scale against the root element.

```
1 .one {  
2   font-size: 1.5rem  
3 }
```



The font-size here would be $1.5 * 14\text{px}$. i.e 21px.

And this:

```
.two {  
  font-size: 1.5rem  
}
```



Yes, the same thing. $1.5 * 14\text{px}$. i.e 21px.

The same goes for `.three`.

No weird behaviour, right?