

How to limit text to n lines with CSS?

Sometimes, we have to trim text to limit the number of lines. There are a few ways to do it with pure CSS. Let's learn how to achieve that

The easiest way to limit text to n lines is to use `line-clamp`. N can be any positive number, but it will be two or three lines most of the time. On my blog, I'm using `line-clamp` in all post-type components to ensure that it will have the same height as siblings.

One-line truncation

To truncate only one line we can use:

```
.truncate {  
  text-overflow: ellipsis;  
  overflow: hidden;  
  white-space: nowrap;  
}
```

White-space and overflow will do the job, while text-overflow will add three dots at the end of the line.

than one line?

Multiple lines truncation

The easiest way is to use this snippet:

```
.truncate {  
  overflow: hidden;  
  text-overflow: ellipsis;  
  display: -webkit-box;  
  -webkit-line-clamp: 2; /* number of lines to show */  
  line-clamp: 2;  
  -webkit-box-orient: vertical;  
}
```

We are using multiple CSS properties:

- `overflow: hidden;`
- `text-overflow: ellipsis;` - optional, it will add three dots at the end of the trimmed line
- `display: -webkit-box;`

- -webkit-line-clamp: 2; - here we can specify how many lines we want to show to the user
- line-clamp: 2;
- -webkit-box-orient: vertical;

Browser Support

According to [Can I Use line-clamp](#) truncation is supported by all major browsers except IE11 and Opera Mini.

IE-11 Support

To support IE 11, we can use `max-height` instead of `line-clamp`.

```
.truncate {  
  display: block;  
  max-height: 3.6em;  
  line-height: 1.8em;  
}
```

The `line-height` is set to 1,8em and `max-height` to 3,6em. Max lines are calculated in this way: 3,6em divided by 1,8em equals 2 lines.

Codepen demo to play with: