**What is CSS?**

* **CSS** stands for **C**ascading **S**tyle **S**heets
* CSS describes **how HTML elements are to be displayed on screen, paper, or in other media**
* CSS **saves a lot of work**. It can control the layout of multiple web pages all at once
* External stylesheets are stored in **CSS files**
* CSS Syntax
* A CSS rule-set consists of a selector and a declaration block:
* 
* The selector points to the HTML element you want to style.
* The declaration block contains one or more declarations separated by semicolons.
* Each declaration includes a CSS property name and a value, separated by a colon.
* A CSS declaration always ends with a semicolon, and declaration blocks are surrounded by curly braces.
* In the following example all <p> elements will be center-aligned, with a red text color:

The element Selector

The element selector selects elements based on the element name.

You can select all <p> elements on a page like this (in this case, all <p> elements will be center-aligned, with a red text color):

Example

p {  
    text-align: center;  
    color: red;  
}

The id Selector

The id selector uses the id attribute of an HTML element to select a specific element.

The id of an element should be unique within a page, so the id selector is used to select one unique element!

To select an element with a specific id, write a hash (#) character, followed by the id of the element.

The style rule below will be applied to the HTML element with id="para1":

Example

#para1 {  
    text-align: center;  
    color: red;  
}

The class Selector

The class selector selects elements with a specific class attribute.

To select elements with a specific class, write a period (.) character, followed by the name of the class.

In the example below, all HTML elements with class="center" will be red and center-aligned:

Example

.center {  
    text-align: center;  
    color: red;  
}

Grouping Selectors

If you have elements with the same style definitions, like this:

h1 {  
    text-align: center;  
    color: red;  
}  
  
h2 {  
    text-align: center;  
    color: red;  
}

p {

text-align: center;

    color: red;  
}

It will be better to group the selectors, to minimize the code.

To group selectors, separate each selector with a comma.

In the example below we have grouped the selectors from the code above:

Example

h1, h2, p {  
    text-align: center;  
    color: red;  
}

CSS Comments

Comments are used to explain the code, and may help when you edit the source code at a later date.

Comments are ignored by browsers.

A CSS comment starts with /\* and ends with \*/. Comments can also span multiple lines:

Example

p {  
    color: red;  
    /\* This is a single-line comment \*/  
    text-align: center;  
}  
  
/\* This is  
a multi-line  
comment \*/

Three Ways to Insert CSS

There are three ways of inserting a style sheet:

* External style sheet
* Internal style sheet
* Inline style

External Style Sheet

With an external style sheet, you can change the look of an entire website by changing just one file!

Each page must include a reference to the external style sheet file inside the <link> element. The <link> element goes inside the <head> section:

Example

<head>  
<link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="mystyle.css">  
</head>

An external style sheet can be written in any text editor. The file should not contain any html tags. The style sheet file must be saved with a **.css extension.**

Here is how the "**mystyle.css"** looks:

body {  
    background-color: lightblue;  
}  
  
h1 {  
    color: navy;  
    margin-left: 20px;  
}

Internal Style Sheet

An internal style sheet may be used if one single page has a unique style.

Internal styles are defined within the <style> element, inside the <head> section of an HTML page:

Example

<head>  
<style>  
body {  
    background-color: linen;  
}  
  
h1 {  
    color: maroon;  
    margin-left: 40px;  
}   
</style>  
</head>

Inline Styles

An inline style may be used to apply a unique style for a single element.

To use inline styles, add the style attribute to the relevant element. The style attribute can contain any CSS property.

The example below shows how to change the color and the left margin of a <h1> element:

Example

<h1 style="color:blue;margin-left:30px;">This is a heading</h1>