Pseudo class selectors are CSS selectors with a colon preceding them. You are probably very familiar with a few of them. Like hover:

```css
a:hover {
  /* Yep, hover is a pseudo class */
}
```

They are immensely useful in a variety of situations. Some of them are CSS3, some CSS2... it depends on each particular one. Outside of IE, they have great browser support. In IE land, even IE8, support is pretty barren. However, the IE9 preview has full support of them. The link-related ones work but not much else. Let's take a brief look at each one of them. Don't worry, there isn't that many.

Link-related pseudo class selectors

:link – Perhaps the most confusion-causing link-related pseudo selector. Aren't all `<a>` links? Well not if they don't have an href attribute. This selects only those that do, thus is essentially the same as a[href]. This selector will become a lot more useful should any-element linking become reality.

:visited – Selects links that have already been visited by the current browser.

:hover – When the mouse cursor rolls over a link, that link is in it's hover state and this will select it.

:active – Selects the link while it is being activated (being clicked on or otherwise activated). For example, for the "pressed" state of a button-style link or to make all links feel more button-like.

There is a fun technique to remember all the link pseudo class selectors. Look at the first letter of each: LVHA ... **LOV**E **HA**TE.

Input & link related pseudo class selectors

:focus – Defining hover styles for links is great, but it doesn't help out those who used keyboard navigation to get to the link. :focus will select links that are the current focus of the keyboard. This is not limited to links, but can be used (and really should be used) on inputs and textareas as well. Some would tell you to define a :focus style for anything that has a :hover style.