

CSS Selector



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CSS selectors are used to select the content you want to style. Selectors are the part of CSS rule set. CSS selectors select HTML elements according to its id, class, type, attribute etc.

There are several different types of selectors in CSS.

- CSS Element Selector
- CSS Id Selector
- CSS Class Selector
- CSS Universal Selector
- CSS Group Selector

CSS Element Selector



The element selector selects the HTML element by name.

Example

Here, all <p> elements on the page will be center-aligned, with a red text color:

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

CSS Id Selector



- The id selector selects the id attribute of an HTML element to select a specific element. An id is always unique within the page so it is chosen to select a single, unique element.
- It is written with the hash character (#), followed by the id of the element.
- Let's take an example with the id "para1".

Example

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

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

The CSS class Selector



- The class selector selects HTML elements with a specific class attribute.
- To select elements with a specific class, write a period (.) character, followed by the class name.

Example

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

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



You can also specify that only specific HTML elements should be affected by a class.

Example

In this example only `<p>` elements with `class="center"` will be red and center-aligned:

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

HTML elements can also refer to more than one class.

Example

In this example the `<p>` element will be styled according to `class="center"` and to `class="large"`:

```
<p class="center large">This paragraph refers to two classes.</p>
```

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
```

```
<html>
```

```
<head>
```

```
<style>
```

```
p.center {
```

```
  text-align: center;
```

```
  color: red;
```

```
}
```

```
p.large {
```

```
  font-size: 300%;
```

```
}
```

```
</style>
```

```
</head>
```

```
<body>
```

```
<h1 class="center">This heading will not be affected</h1>
```

```
<p class="center">This paragraph will be red and center-aligned.</p>
```

```
<p class="center large">This paragraph will be red, center-aligned, and in a  
large font-size.</p>
```

```
</body>
```

```
</html>
```



The CSS Universal Selector



The universal selector (*) selects all HTML elements on the page.

Example

The CSS rule below will affect every HTML element on the page:

```
* {  
  text-align: center;  
  color: blue;  
}
```


The CSS Grouping Selector



The grouping selector selects all the HTML elements with the same style definitions.

Look at the following CSS code (the h1, h2, and p elements have the same style definitions):

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

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

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

Example

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

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

Summary



All CSS Simple Selectors

Selector	Example	Example description
<u>#id</u>	#firstname	Selects the element with id="firstname"
<u>.class</u>	.intro	Selects all elements with class="intro"
<u>element.class</u>	p.intro	Selects only <p> elements with class="intro"
<u>*</u>	*	Selects all elements
<u>element</u>	p	Selects all <p> elements
<u>element,element,..</u>	div, p	Selects all <div> elements and all <p> elements