**Applying Styles Directly to HTML Elements**

**Inline Styles:**

Inline styles are applied directly to an HTML element using the style attribute within the opening tag. This allows for quick and specific styling of individual elements without the need for an external stylesheet.

**Example:**

HTML

<p style="color: red; font-size: 20px;">This paragraph has inline styles.</p>

Use code [with caution.](/faq#coding)

In this example, the color: red; font-size: 20px; attributes are applied directly to the <p> element, making the text red and increasing the font size to 20 pixels.

**Pros of Inline Styles:**

* **Quick and Easy:** Inline styles are straightforward to apply and can be useful for making small changes to individual elements.
* **Immediate Effect:** Changes made to inline styles are immediately visible in the browser without requiring a page refresh.

**Cons of Inline Styles:**

* **Reduced Readability:** Inline styles can clutter HTML code, making it harder to read and maintain.
* **Lack of Reusability:** Styles defined inline cannot be reused for multiple elements, leading to redundancy.
* **Maintenance Issues:** Making changes to inline styles can be time-consuming, especially for large or complex documents.

**Best Practices:**

* **Use inline styles sparingly:** For minor adjustments or temporary styles, inline styles can be convenient. However, for more complex styling or reusable styles, it's generally better to use external stylesheets.
* **Consider using CSS classes:** For reusable styles, define CSS classes and apply them to multiple elements using the class attribute. This promotes better code organization and maintainability.

**By understanding the pros and cons of inline styles, you can make informed decisions about when to use them effectively in your web development projects.**