A CSS pseudo-element is used to style specified parts of an element.

For example, it can be used to:

* Style the first letter, or line, of an element
* Insert content before, or after, the content of an element

**Notice the double colon notation -**::first-line versus :first-line  
  
The double colon replaced the single-colon notation for pseudo-elements in CSS3. This was an attempt from W3C to distinguish between **pseudo-classes** and **pseudo-elements**.  
  
The single-colon syntax was used for both pseudo-classes and pseudo-elements in CSS2 and CSS1.  
  
For backward compatibility, the single-colon syntax is acceptable for CSS2 and CSS1 pseudo-elements.

**Note:** The ::first-line pseudo-element can only be applied to block-level elements.

The following properties apply to the ::first-line pseudo-element:

* font properties
* color properties
* background properties
* word-spacing
* letter-spacing
* text-decoration
* vertical-align
* text-transform
* line-height
* clear
* The ::first-letter Pseudo-element
* The ::first-letter pseudo-element is used to add a special style to the first letter of a text.
* The following example formats the first letter of the text in all <p> elements:

**Note:** The ::first-letter pseudo-element can only be applied to block-level elements.

The following properties apply to the ::first-letter pseudo- element:

* font properties
* color properties
* background properties
* margin properties
* padding properties
* border properties
* text-decoration
* vertical-align (only if "float" is "none")
* text-transform
* line-height
* float
* clear