Introduction to CSS

What is CSS?

- CSS stands for Cascading Style Sheets
- 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

Why Use CSS?

CSS is used to define styles for your web pages, including the design, layout and variations in display for different devices and screen sizes.

CSS Example

```
body {
  background-color: lightblue;
}

h1 {
  color: white;
  text-align: center;
}

p {
  font-family: verdana;
  font-size: 20px;
}
```

CSS Solved a Big Problem

HTML was NEVER intended to contain tags for formatting a web page!

HTML was created to describe the content of a web page, like:

<h1>This is a heading</h1>

This is a paragraph.

When tags like <font>, and color attributes were added to the HTML 3.2 specification, it started a nightmare for web developers. Development of large websites, where fonts and color information were added to every single page, became a long and expensive process.

To solve this problem, the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) created CSS.

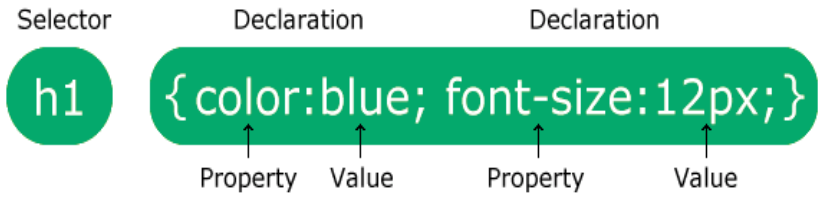
CSS removed the style formatting from the HTML page!

CSS Saves a Lot of Work!

The style definitions are normally saved in external .css files.

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

CSS Syntax



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.

Multiple CSS declarations are separated with semicolons, and declaration blocks are surrounded by curly braces.

Example

In this example all <p> elements will be center-aligned, with a red text color:

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

Try it Yourself »

Example Explained

- `p` is a selector in CSS (it points to the HTML element you want to style: <p>).
- `color` is a property, and `red` is the property value
- `text-align` is a property, and `center` is the property value

CSS Selectors

CSS selectors are used to "find" (or select) the HTML elements you want to style.

We can divide CSS selectors into five categories:

- Simple selectors (select elements based on name, id, class)
- Combinator selectors (select elements based on a specific relationship between them)
- Pseudo-class selectors (select elements based on a certain state)
- Pseudo-elements selectors (select and style a part of an element)
- Attribute selectors (select elements based on an attribute or attribute value)

This page will explain the most basic CSS selectors.

The CSS element Selector

The element selector selects HTML elements based on the element name.

Example

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

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

The CSS id Selector

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

The id of an element is 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.

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;
}
```

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>
```

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;
}
```

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

To group selectors, separate each selector with a comma.

Example

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

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

When a browser reads a style sheet, it will format the HTML document according to the information in the style sheet.

Three Ways to Insert CSS

There are three ways of inserting a style sheet:

- External CSS
- Internal CSS
- Inline CSS

External CSS

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

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

Example

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

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
<link rel="stylesheet" href="mystyle.css">
</head>
<body>

<h1>This is a heading</h1>
<p>This is a paragraph.</p>

</body>
</html>
```

An external style sheet can be written in any text editor, and must be saved with a .css extension.

The external .css file should not contain any HTML tags.

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

"mystyle.css"

```
body {
  background-color: lightblue;
}

h1 {
  color: navy;
  margin-left: 20px;
}
```

Note: Do not add a space between the property value and the unit:
Incorrect (space): `margin-left: 20 px;`
Correct (nospace): `margin-left: 20px;`

Internal CSS

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

The internal style is defined inside the <style> element, inside the head section.

Example

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

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
<style>
body {
  background-color: linen;
}

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

```
<h1>This is a heading</h1>
<p>This is a paragraph.</p>


</body>
</html>
```

Inline CSS

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.

Example

Inline styles are defined within the "style" attribute of the relevant element:

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<body>

<h1 style="color:blue;text-align:center;">This is a heading</h1>
<p style="color:red;">This is a paragraph.</p>

</body>
</html>
```

Cascading Order

What style will be used when there is more than one style specified for an HTML element?

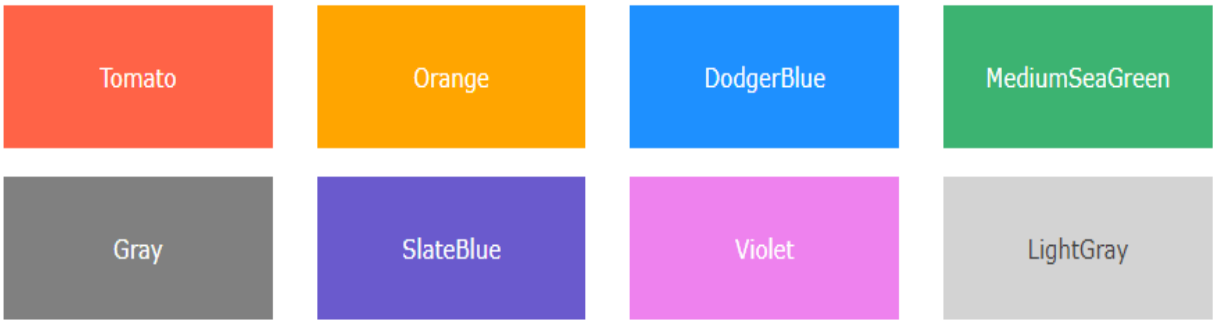
All the styles in a page will "cascade" into a new "virtual" style sheet by the following rules, where number one has the highest priority:

1. Inline style (inside an HTML element)
2. External and internal style sheets (in the head section)
3. Browser default

So, an inline style has the highest priority, and will override external and internal styles and browser defaults.

CSS Color Names

In CSS, a color can be specified by using a predefined color name:



CSS/HTML support 140 standard color names.

CSS Background Color

You can set the background color for HTML elements:

Example

```
<h1 style="background-color:DodgerBlue;">Hello World</h1>
<p style="background-color:Tomato;">Lorem ipsum...</p>
```

CSS Text Color

You can set the color of text:

Hello World

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing elit, sed diam nonummy nibh euismod tincidunt ut laoreet dolore magna aliquam erat volutpat.

Ut wisi enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exerci tation ullamcorper suscipit lobortis nisl ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat.

Example

```
<h1 style="color:Tomato;">Hello World</h1>
<p style="color:DodgerBlue;">Lorem ipsum...</p>
<p style="color:MediumSeaGreen;">Ut wisi enim...</p>
```

CSS Border Color

You can set the color of borders:

Hello World

Hello World

Hello World

Example

```
<h1 style="border:2px solid Tomato;">Hello World</h1>
<h1 style="border:2px solid DodgerBlue;">Hello World</h1>
<h1 style="border:2px solid Violet;">Hello World</h1>
```

RGB Value

In CSS, a color can be specified as an RGB value, using this formula:

rgb(*red, green, blue*)

Each parameter (red, green, and blue) defines the intensity of the color between 0 and 255.

For example, rgb(255, 0, 0) is displayed as red, because red is set to its highest value (255) and the others are set to 0.

To display black, set all color parameters to 0, like this: rgb(0, 0, 0).

To display white, set all color parameters to 255, like this: rgb(255, 255, 255).

Experiment by mixing the RGB values below:

rgb(255, 0, 68)

Example

rgb(255, 0, 0)

rgb(0, 0, 255)

rgb(60, 179, 113)

rgb(238, 130, 238)

rgb(255, 165, 0)

rgb(106, 90, 205)

RGBA Value

RGBA color values are an extension of RGB color values with an alpha channel - which specifies the opacity for a color.

An RGBA color value is specified with:

rgba(*red, green, blue, alpha*)

The alpha parameter is a number between 0.0 (fully transparent) and 1.0 (not transparent at all):

Experiment by mixing the RGBA values below:

rgba(255, 99, 71, 0.5)

Example

rgba(255, 99, 71, 0)

rgba(255, 99, 71, 0.2)

rgba(255, 99, 71, 0.4)

rgba(255, 99, 71, 0.6)

rgba(255, 99, 71, 0.8)

rgba(255, 99, 71, 1)

A hexadecimal color is specified with: #RRGGBB, where the RR (red), GG (green) and BB (blue) hexadecimal integers specify the components of the color.

HEX Value

In CSS, a color can be specified using a hexadecimal value in the form:

#rrggbb

Where rr (red), gg (green) and bb (blue) are hexadecimal values between 00 and ff (same as decimal 0-255).

For example, #ff0000 is displayed as red, because red is set to its highest value (ff) and the others are set to the lowest value (00).

To display black, set all values to 00, like this: #000000.

To display white, set all values to ff, like this: #ffffff.

Experiment by mixing the HEX values below:

#ff6347

Example

#ff0000

#0000ff

#3cb371

#ee82ee

#ffa500

#6a5acd

CSS Backgrounds

The CSS background properties are used to add background effects for elements.

In these chapters, you will learn about the following CSS background properties:

- `background-color`
- `background-image`
- `background-repeat`
- `background-attachment`
- `background-position`
- `background` (shorthand property)

CSS background-color

The `background-color` property specifies the background color of an element.

Example

The background color of a page is set like this:

```
body {
  background-color: lightblue;
}
```

With CSS, a color is most often specified by:

- a valid color name - like "red"
- a HEX value - like "#ff0000"
- an RGB value - like "rgb(255,0,0)"

CSS background-image

The `background-image` property specifies an image to use as the background of an element.

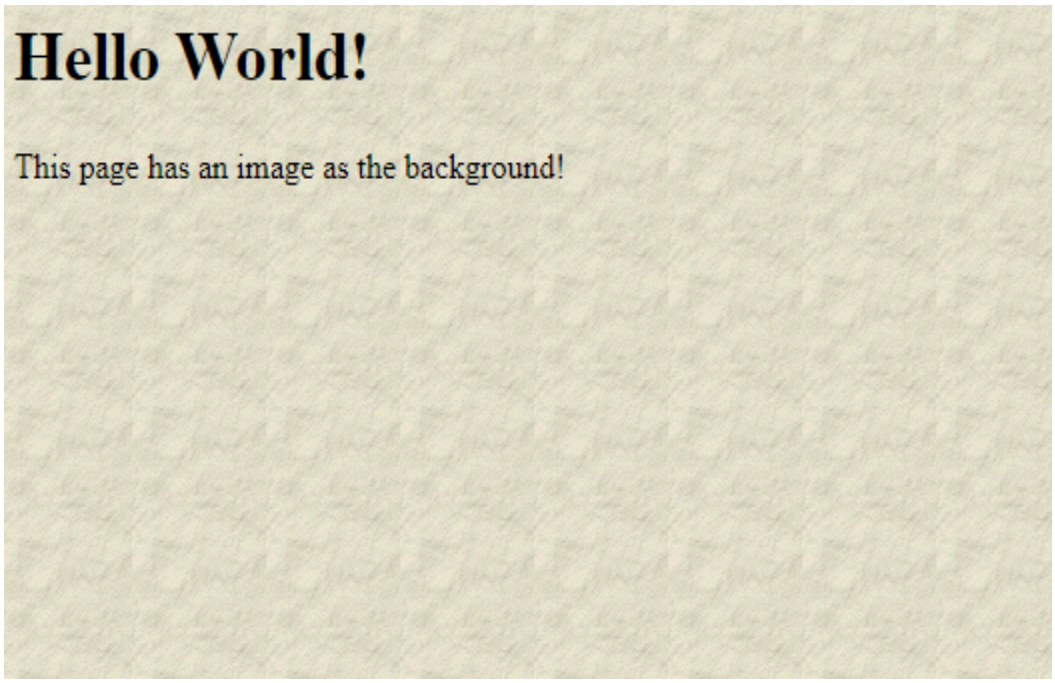
By default, the image is repeated so it covers the entire element.

```
<html>
<head>
<style>
body {
  background-image: url("paper.gif");
}
</style>
</head>
<body>

<h1>Hello World!</h1>

<p>This page has an image as the background!</p>

</body>
</html>
```



CSS Borders

The CSS border properties allow you to specify the style, width, and color of an element's border.

I have borders on all sides.

I have a red bottom border.

I have rounded borders.

I have a blue left border.

CSS Border Style

The `border-style` property specifies what kind of border to display.

The following values are allowed:

- `dotted` - Defines a dotted border
- `dashed` - Defines a dashed border
- `solid` - Defines a solid border
- `double` - Defines a double border
- `groove` - Defines a 3D grooved border. The effect depends on the border-color value
- `ridge` - Defines a 3D ridged border. The effect depends on the border-color value
- `inset` - Defines a 3D inset border. The effect depends on the border-color value
- `outset` - Defines a 3D outset border. The effect depends on the border-color value
- `none` - Defines no border
- `hidden` - Defines a hidden border

The `border-style` property can have from one to four values (for the top border, right border, bottom border, and the left border).

Example

Demonstration of the different border styles:

```
p.dotted {border-style: dotted;}
p.dashed {border-style: dashed;}
p.solid {border-style: solid;}
p.double {border-style: double;}
p.groove {border-style: groove;}
p.ridge {border-style: ridge;}
p.inset {border-style: inset;}
p.outset {border-style: outset;}
p.none {border-style: none;}
p.hidden {border-style: hidden;}
p.mix {border-style: dotted dashed solid double;}
```

Result:

A dotted border.

A dashed border.

A solid border.

A double border.

A groove border. The effect depends on the border-color value.

A ridge border. The effect depends on the border-color value.

An inset border. The effect depends on the border-color value.

An outset border. The effect depends on the border-color value.

No border.

A hidden border.

A mixed border.

CSS Border Width

The `border-width` property specifies the width of the four borders.

The width can be set as a specific size (in px, pt, cm, em, etc) or by using one of the three pre-defined values: thin, medium, or thick:

Example

Demonstration of the different border widths:

```
p.one {
  border-style: solid;
  border-width: 5px;
}

p.two {
  border-style: solid;
  border-width: medium;
}

p.three {
  border-style: dotted;
  border-width: 2px;
}

p.four {
  border-style: dotted;
  border-width: thick;
}
```

Result:

5px border-width

medium border-width

2px border-width

thick border-width

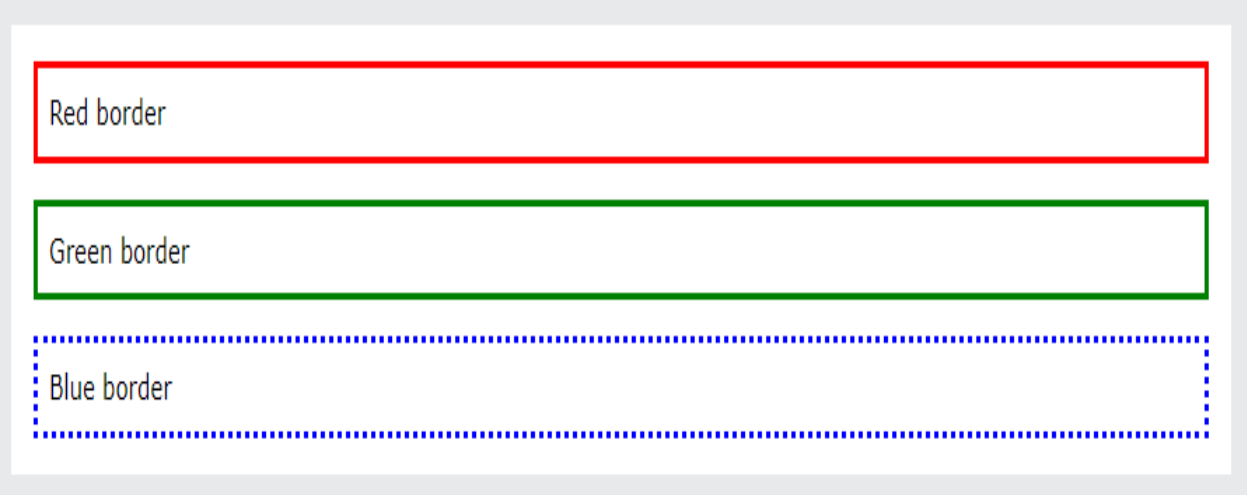
CSS Border Color

The `border-color` property is used to set the color of the four borders.

The color can be set by:

- name - specify a color name, like "red"
- HEX - specify a HEX value, like "#ff0000"
- RGB - specify a RGB value, like "rgb(255,0,0)"
- HSL - specify a HSL value, like "hsl(0, 100%, 50%)"
- transparent

Note: If `border-color` is not set, it inherits the color of the element.



CSS Margins

The CSS `margin` properties are used to create space around elements, outside of any defined borders.

With CSS, you have full control over the margins. There are properties for setting the margin for each side of an element (top, right, bottom, and left).

Margin - Individual Sides

CSS has properties for specifying the margin for each side of an element:

- `margin-top`
- `margin-right`
- `margin-bottom`
- `margin-left`

All the margin properties can have the following values:

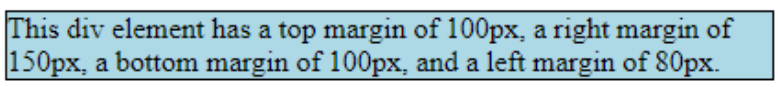
- auto - the browser calculates the margin
- *length* - specifies a margin in px, pt, cm, etc.
- % - specifies a margin in % of the width of the containing element
- inherit - specifies that the margin should be inherited from the parent element

Tip: Negative values are allowed.

Example

Set different margins for all four sides of a <p> element:

```
p {
  margin-top: 100px;
  margin-bottom: 100px;
  margin-right: 150px;
  margin-left: 80px;
}
```



CSS Padding

The CSS `padding` properties are used to generate space around an element's content, inside of any defined borders.

With CSS, you have full control over the padding. There are properties for setting the padding for each side of an element (top, right, bottom, and left).

Padding - Individual Sides

CSS has properties for specifying the padding for each side of an element:

- `padding-top`
- `padding-right`
- `padding-bottom`
- `padding-left`

All the padding properties can have the following values:

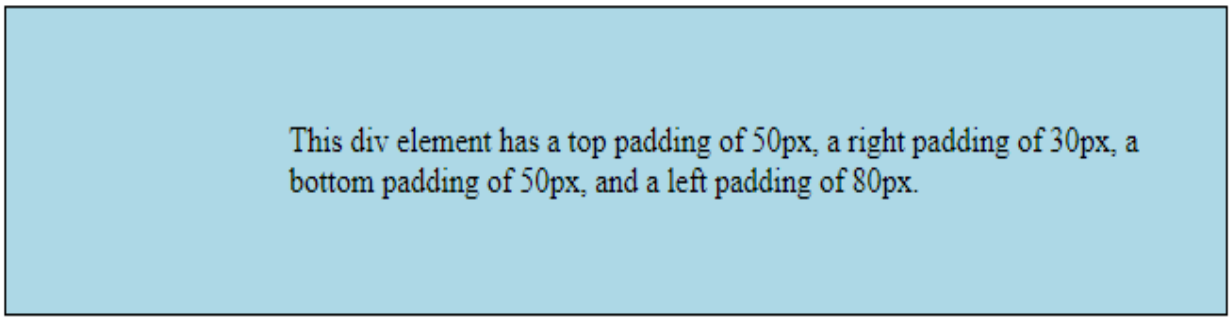
- *length* - specifies a padding in px, pt, cm, etc.
- % - specifies a padding in % of the width of the containing element
- inherit - specifies that the padding should be inherited from the parent element

Note: Negative values are not allowed.

Example

Set different padding for all four sides of a element:

```
div {
  padding-top: 50px;
  padding-right: 30px;
  padding-bottom: 50px;
  padding-left: 80px;
}
```



CSS Links

With CSS, links can be styled in many different ways.

Text Link Text Link Link Button Link Button

Example

```
a {
  color: hotpink;
}
```

In addition, links can be styled differently depending on what **state** they are in.

The four links states are:

- `a:link` - a normal, unvisited link
- `a:visited` - a link the user has visited
- `a:hover` - a link when the user mouses over it
- `a:active` - a link the moment it is clicked

Example

```
/* unvisited link */
a:link {
  color: red;
}

/* visited link */
a:visited {
  color: green;
}

/* mouse over link */
a:hover {
  color: hotpink;
}

/* selected link */
a:active {
  color: blue;
}
```

CSS Tables

The look of an HTML table can be greatly improved with CSS:

Company	Contact	Country
Alfreds Futterkiste	Maria Anders	Germany
Berglunds snabbköp	Christina Berglund	Sweden
Centro comercial Moctezuma	Francisco Chang	Mexico
Ernst Handel	Roland Mendel	Austria
Island Trading	Helen Bennett	UK
Königlich Essen	Philip Cramer	Germany
Laughing Bacchus Winecellars	Yoshi Tannamuri	Canada
Magazzini Alimentari Riuniti	Giovanni Rovelli	Italy

```
<style>
#customers {
  font-family: Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif;
  border-collapse: collapse;
  width: 100%;
}

#customers td, #customers th {
  border: 1px solid #ddd;
  padding: 8px;
}

#customers tr:nth-child(even){background-color: #f2f2f2;}

#customers tr:hover {background-color: #ddd;}

#customers th {
  padding-top: 12px;
  padding-bottom: 12px;
  text-align: left;
  background-color: #04AA6D;
  color: white;
}
</style>
```

Table Borders

To specify table borders in CSS, use the `border` property.

The example below specifies a black border for <table>, <th>, and <td> elements:

Firstname	Lastname
Peter	Griffin
Lois	Griffin

Example

```
table, th, td {
  border: 1px solid black;
}
```

Full-Width Table

The table above might seem small in some cases. If you need a table that should span the entire screen (full-width), add `width: 100%` to the <table> element:

Firstname	Lastname
Peter	Griffin
Lois	Griffin

Example

```
table {
  width: 100%;
}
```

Collapse Table Borders

The `border-collapse` property sets whether the table borders should be collapsed into a single border:

Firstname	Lastname
Peter	Griffin
Lois	Griffin

Example

```
table {
  border-collapse: collapse;
}
```

If you only want a border around the table, only specify the `border` property for <table>:

Firstname	Lastname
Peter	Griffin
Lois	Griffin

Example

```
table {
  border: 1px solid black;
}
```

CSS Forms

The look of an HTML form can be greatly improved with CSS:

First Name

Your name..

Last Name

Your last name..

Country

Australia

Styling Input Fields

Use the `width` property to determine the width of the input field:

First Name

Example

```
input {
  width: 100%;
}
```

Padded Inputs

Use the `padding` property to add space inside the text field.

Tip: When you have many inputs after each other, you might also want to add some `margin`, to add more space outside of them:

First Name

Last Name

Example

```
input[type=text] {
  width: 100%;
  padding: 12px 20px;
  margin: 8px 0;
  box-sizing: border-box;
}
```

Bordered Inputs

Use the `border` property to change the border size and color, and use the `border-radius` property to add rounded corners:

First Name

Example

```
input[type=text] {
  border: 2px solid red;
  border-radius: 4px;
}
```