  
https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/  
  
2. Selectors Overview

This section is non-normative, as it merely summarizes the following sections.

A selector represents a structure. This structure can be used as a condition (e.g. in a CSS rule) that determines which elements a selector matches in the document tree, or as a flat description of the HTML or XML fragment corresponding to that structure.

Selectors may range from simple element names to rich contextual representations.

The following table summarizes the Selector syntax:

| **Pattern** | **Represents** | **Section** | **Level** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| \* | any element | [§ 5.2 Universal selector](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#the-universal-selector) | 2 |
| E | an element of type E | [§ 5.1 Type (tag name) selector](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#type-selectors) | 1 |
| E:not(*s1*, *s2*, …) | an E element that does not match either [compound selector](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#compound) *s1* or compound selector *s2* | [§ 4.3 The Negation (Matches-None) Pseudo-class: :not()](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#negation) | 3/4 |
| E:is(*s1*, *s2*, …) | an E element that matches [compound selector](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#compound) *s1* and/or compound selector *s2* | [§ 4.2 The Matches-Any Pseudo-class: :is()](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#matches) | 4 |
| E:where(*s1*, *s2*, …) | an E element that matches [compound selector](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#compound) *s1* and/or compound selector *s2* but contributes no specificity. | [§ 4.4 The Specificity-adjustment Pseudo-class: :where()](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#zero-matches) | 4 |
| E:has(*rs1*, *rs2*, …) | an E element, if there exists an element that matches either of the [relative selectors](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#relative-selector) *rs1* or *rs2*, when evaluated with E as the [anchor elements](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#relative-selector-anchor-elements) | [§ 4.5 The Relational Pseudo-class: :has()](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#relational) | 4 |
| E.warning | an E element belonging to the class warning (the document language specifies how class is determined). | [§ 6.6 Class selectors](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#class-html) | 1 |
| E#myid | an E element with ID equal to myid. | [§ 6.7 ID selectors](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#id-selectors) | 1 |
| E[foo] | an E element with a foo attribute | [§ 6.1 Attribute presence and value selectors](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#attribute-representation) | 2 |
| E[foo="bar"] | an E element whose foo attribute value is exactly equal to bar | [§ 6.1 Attribute presence and value selectors](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#attribute-representation) | 2 |
| E[foo="bar" i] | an E element whose foo attribute value is exactly equal to any (ASCII-range) case-permutation of bar | [§ 6.3 Case-sensitivity](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#attribute-case) | 4 |
| E[foo="bar" s] | an E element whose foo attribute value is [identical to](https://infra.spec.whatwg.org/#string-is) bar | [§ 6.3 Case-sensitivity](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#attribute-case) | 4 |
| E[foo~="bar"] | an E element whose foo attribute value is a list of whitespace-separated values, one of which is exactly equal to bar | [§ 6.1 Attribute presence and value selectors](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#attribute-representation) | 2 |
| E[foo^="bar"] | an E element whose foo attribute value begins exactly with the string bar | [§ 6.2 Substring matching attribute selectors](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#attribute-substrings) | 3 |
| E[foo$="bar"] | an E element whose foo attribute value ends exactly with the string bar | [§ 6.2 Substring matching attribute selectors](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#attribute-substrings) | 3 |
| E[foo\*="bar"] | an E element whose foo attribute value contains the substring bar | [§ 6.2 Substring matching attribute selectors](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#attribute-substrings) | 3 |
| E[foo|="en"] | an E element whose foo attribute value is a hyphen-separated list of values beginning with en | [§ 6.1 Attribute presence and value selectors](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#attribute-representation) | 2 |
| E:dir(ltr) | an element of type E with left-to-right directionality (the document language specifies how directionality is determined) | [§ 7.1 The Directionality Pseudo-class: :dir()](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#the-dir-pseudo) | 4 |
| E:lang(zh, "\*-hant") | an element of type E tagged as being either in Chinese (any dialect or writing system) or otherwise written with traditional Chinese characters | [§ 7.2 The Language Pseudo-class: :lang()](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#the-lang-pseudo) | 2/4 |
| E:any-link | an E element being the source anchor of a hyperlink | [§ 8.1 The Hyperlink Pseudo-class: :any-link](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#the-any-link-pseudo) | 4 |
| E:link | an E element being the source anchor of a hyperlink of which the target is not yet visited | [§ 8.2 The Link History Pseudo-classes: :link and :visited](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#link) | 1 |
| E:visited | an E element being the source anchor of a hyperlink of which the target is already visited | [§ 8.2 The Link History Pseudo-classes: :link and :visited](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#link) | 1 |
| E:local-link | an E element being the source anchor of a hyperlink targeting the current URL | [§ 8.3 The Local Link Pseudo-class: :local-link](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#the-local-link-pseudo) | 4 |
| E:target | an E element being the target of the current URL | [§ 8.4 The Target Pseudo-class: :target](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#the-target-pseudo) | 3 |
| E:target-within | an E element that is the target of the current URL or contains an element that does. | [§ 8.5 The Target Container Pseudo-class: :target-within](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#the-target-within-pseudo) | 4 |
| E:scope | an E element being a [scoping root](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#scoping-root) | [§ 8.6 The Reference Element Pseudo-class: :scope](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#the-scope-pseudo) | 4 |
| E:current | an E element that is currently presented in a time-dimensional canvas | [§ 10.1 The Current-element Pseudo-class: :current](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#the-current-pseudo) | 4 |
| E:current(*s*) | an E element that is the deepest [:current](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#current-pseudo) element that matches selector *s* | [§ 10.1 The Current-element Pseudo-class: :current](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#the-current-pseudo) | 4 |
| E:past | an E element that is in the past in a time-dimensional canvas | [§ 10.2 The Past-element Pseudo-class: :past](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#the-past-pseudo) | 4 |
| E:future | an E element that is in the future in a time-dimensional canvas | [§ 10.3 The Future-element Pseudo-class: :future](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#the-future-pseudo) | 4 |
| E:active | an E element that is in an activated state | [§ 9.2 The Activation Pseudo-class: :active](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#the-active-pseudo) | 1 |
| E:hover | an E element that is under the cursor, or that has a descendant under the cursor | [§ 9.1 The Pointer Hover Pseudo-class: :hover](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#the-hover-pseudo) | 2 |
| E:focus | an E element that has user input focus | [§ 9.3 The Input Focus Pseudo-class: :focus](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#the-focus-pseudo) | 2 |
| E:focus-within | an E element that has user input focus or contains an element that has input focus. | [§ 9.5 The Focus Container Pseudo-class: :focus-within](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#the-focus-within-pseudo) | 4 |
| E:focus-visible | an E element that has user input focus, and the UA has determined that a focus ring or other indicator should be drawn for that element | [§ 9.4 The Focus-Indicated Pseudo-class: :focus-visible](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#the-focus-visible-pseudo) | 4 |
| E:enabled E:disabled | a user interface element E that is enabled or disabled, respectively | [§ 13.1.1 The :enabled and :disabled Pseudo-classes](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#enableddisabled) | 3 |
| E:read-write E:read-only | a user interface element E that is user alterable, or not | [§ 13.1.2 The Mutability Pseudo-classes: :read-only and :read-write](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#rw-pseudos) | 3-UI/4 |
| E:placeholder-shown | an input control currently showing placeholder text | [§ 13.1.3 The Placeholder-shown Pseudo-class: :placeholder-shown](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#placeholder) | 3-UI/4 |
| E:default | a user interface element E that is the default item in a group of related choices | [§ 13.1.5 The Default-option Pseudo-class: :default](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#the-default-pseudo) | 3-UI/4 |
| E:checked | a user interface element E that is checked/selected (for instance a radio-button or checkbox) | [§ 13.2.1 The Selected-option Pseudo-class: :checked](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#checked) | 3 |
| E:indeterminate | a user interface element E that is in an indeterminate state (neither checked nor unchecked) | [§ 13.2.2 The Indeterminate-value Pseudo-class: :indeterminate](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#indeterminate) | 4 |
| E:valid E:invalid | a user-input element E that meets, or doesn’t, its data validity semantics | [§ 13.3.2 The Validity Pseudo-classes: :valid and :invalid](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#validity-pseudos) | 3-UI/4 |
| E:in-range E:out-of-range | a user-input element E whose value is in-range/out-of-range | [§ 13.3.3 The Range Pseudo-classes: :in-range and :out-of-range](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#range-pseudos) | 3-UI/4 |
| E:required E:optional | a user-input element E that requires/does not require input | [§ 13.3.4 The Optionality Pseudo-classes: :required and :optional](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#opt-pseudos) | 3-UI/4 |
| E:blank | a user-input element E whose value is blank (empty/missing) | [§ 13.3.1 The Empty-Value Pseudo-class: :blank](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#blank) | 4 |
| E:user-invalid | a user-altered user-input element E with incorrect input (invalid, out-of-range, omitted-but-required) | [§ 13.3.5 The User-interaction Pseudo-classes: :user-valid and :user-invalid](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#user-pseudos) | 4 |
| E:root | an E element, root of the document | [§ 14.1 :root pseudo-class](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#the-root-pseudo) | 3 |
| E:empty | an E element that has no children (neither elements nor text) except perhaps white space | [§ 14.2 :empty pseudo-class](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#the-empty-pseudo) | 3 |
| E:nth-child(*n* [of *S*]?) | an E element, the *n*-th child of its parent matching *S* | [§ 14.3.1 :nth-child() pseudo-class](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#the-nth-child-pseudo) | 3/4 |
| E:nth-last-child(*n* [of *S*]?) | an E element, the *n*-th child of its parent matching *S*, counting from the last one | [§ 14.3.2 :nth-last-child() pseudo-class](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#the-nth-last-child-pseudo) | 3/4 |
| E:first-child | an E element, first child of its parent | [§ 14.3.3 :first-child pseudo-class](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#the-first-child-pseudo) | 2 |
| E:last-child | an E element, last child of its parent | [§ 14.3.4 :last-child pseudo-class](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#the-last-child-pseudo) | 3 |
| E:only-child | an E element, only child of its parent | [§ 14.3.5 :only-child pseudo-class](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#the-only-child-pseudo) | 3 |
| E:nth-of-type(*n*) | an E element, the *n*-th sibling of its type | [§ 14.4.1 :nth-of-type() pseudo-class](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#the-nth-of-type-pseudo) | 3 |
| E:nth-last-of-type(*n*) | an E element, the *n*-th sibling of its type, counting from the last one | [§ 14.4.2 :nth-last-of-type() pseudo-class](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#the-nth-last-of-type-pseudo) | 3 |
| E:first-of-type | an E element, first sibling of its type | [§ 14.4.3 :first-of-type pseudo-class](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#the-first-of-type-pseudo) | 3 |
| E:last-of-type | an E element, last sibling of its type | [§ 14.4.4 :last-of-type pseudo-class](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#the-last-of-type-pseudo) | 3 |
| E:only-of-type | an E element, only sibling of its type | [§ 14.4.5 :only-of-type pseudo-class](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#the-only-of-type-pseudo) | 3 |
| E F | an F element descendant of an E element | [§ 15.1 Descendant combinator ( )](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#descendant-combinators) | 1 |
| E > F | an F element child of an E element | [§ 15.2 Child combinator (>)](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#child-combinators) | 2 |
| E + F | an F element immediately preceded by an E element | [§ 15.3 Next-sibling combinator (+)](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#adjacent-sibling-combinators) | 2 |
| E ~ F | an F element preceded by an E element | [§ 15.4 Subsequent-sibling combinator (~)](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#general-sibling-combinators) | 3 |
| F || E | an E element that represents a cell in a grid/table belonging to a column represented by an element F | [§ 16.1 Column combinator (||)](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#the-column-combinator) | 4 |
| E:nth-col(*n*) | an E element that represents a cell belonging to the *n*th column in a grid/table | [§ 16.2 :nth-col() pseudo-class](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#the-nth-col-pseudo) | 4 |
| E:nth-last-col(*n*) | an E element that represents a cell belonging to the *n*th column in a grid/table, counting from the last one | [§ 16.3 :nth-last-col() pseudo-class](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#the-nth-last-col-pseudo) | 4 |

Note: Some Level 4 selectors (noted above as "3-UI") were introduced in [[CSS3UI]](https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors/#biblio-css3ui).