# **CSS Cheatsheet**

CSS (Cascading Style Sheets) add color and shape to HTML documents. When writing CSS you create rules that pick elements in an HTML document, then change those elements' properties.

## The <style> element

The easiest way to add CSS to an HTML document is to create a <style> element and put your CSS in it, either in the <head> or <body> element of the document. If you are adding CSS to HTML in a system like TileMill, put your <style> element first.

#### Rules

CSS rules start with a selector and { . Starting on the next line, a property and its value are listed (separated by :) and each line ends with *i* . Finally, on its own line, the rule ends with } . For example:

```
p {
    color: green;
    font-weight: bold;
    margin: 15px;
}
```

This rule selects all HTML elements on the page, then changes three properties for all of those elements. It sets color to green, font-weight to bold, and margin to 15px. These properties and their values are described below in **Properties**.

You can define as many rules as you need. An element is styled using the last, most specific, rule that applies to it.

### **Selectors**

There are three basic types of selectors, in order of specificity:

- **elements:** Select all elements of a type by using the name of the element without the < and >. For example, to select all <a> elements, use a.
- **classes:** Select all elements of a class by using a . followed by the class name. For example, to select all elements with class legend-box, use .legend-box.
- ids: Select an element with an id by using a # followed by the id of the element. For example, to select the element with id legend, use #legend.

Selectors become powerful as you combine them to select elements in more specific ways:

- **nested elements:** Select elements within other elements by putting spaces between the selectors. For example, to find every <a> element within a element, use p a as your selector.
- **AND:** Select elements for which two selectors are true by listing them without spaces. For example, to find every <a> element of class legend-link, use a.legend-link as your selector.
- **OR:** Select elements where one or more selectors are true by separating each selector with a comma (,). For example, to find all elements and all <div> elements, use p, div as your selector.

## **Properties**

There are many CSS properties<sup>1</sup>. Here are the ones you will most likely be using:

color Set the foreground color (eg, text color). Can be a common color

name (eg, red or blue), a hex color starting with #, or an HSL

color, eg, hsl(175, 47%, 50%).

background-color Set the background color. Accepts the same values as color.

font-family The font family, eg Arial, Helvetica, or more generically

sans-serif. Will only work if the person viewing the page has

that font installed on their computer.

font-size The font size, in pixels. Eg, 24px. font-weight The font weight, eg, normal or bold.

height Set the height of the element. Most commonly as the number of

pixels (eg, 25px) or a percentage of the parent element (eg, 50%).

width Set the width of the element. Takes the same values as height.

padding Set the padding of the element, usually in pixels. Eg, 30px.

Set the padding on the **top** side of the element.

padding-right
padding-bottom
padding-left
Right padding.
Bottom padding.
Left padding.

padding-top

z-index

margin Set the margin of the element (the outside of the border), eg

30px. Set the margin by side using margin-top,

margin-right, margin-bottom, and margin-left as

with padding, above.

border Set the border of the element: width style color. Eg 2px

solid black. Can be dashed or dotted. You can use border-top, border-right, border-bottom, border-left as you can with padding, above.

display How the element should be displayed. You'll mostly use none

(don't show the element), inline (the element will not take up the entire width of the page), block (the element will take up the entire width of the page), and inline-block (the element will not take up the entire width of the page, but you will be able to set the width and height of the element). If setting width or height does not work for you, consider setting this to inline-block.

Think of elements on an HTML page as layers: a higher z-index value makes an element appear on top of elements with lower

z-index values.

list-style Only applies to 
 elements. Handy for removing bullets from

a bulleted list, eg, list-style: none.

1: Find all properties here: https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/CSS/Reference