

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 `;`. Finally, on its own line, the rule ends with `}`. For example:

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

This rule selects all `<p>` 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 `<p>` 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 `<p>` elements and all `<div>` elements, use `p, div` as your selector.

Properties

There are many CSS properties¹. 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, <code>hsl(175, 47%, 50%)</code> .
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.
padding-top	Set the padding on the top side of the element.
padding-right	Right padding.
padding-bottom	Bottom padding.
padding-left	Left padding.
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).
z-index	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>