

CSS Selector Reference

CSS Selectors

In CSS, selectors are patterns used to select the element(s) you want to style.

Use our [CSS Selector Tester](#) to demonstrate the different selectors.

Selector	Example	Example description
<u>.class</u>	.intro	Selects all elements with class="intro"
<u>#id</u>	#firstname	Selects the element with id="firstname"
<u>*</u>	*	Selects all elements
<u>element</u>	p	Selects all <p> elements
<u>element,element</u>	div, p	Selects all <div> elements and all <p> elements
<u>element element</u>	div p	Selects all <p> elements inside <div> elements
<u>element>element</u>	div > p	Selects all <p> elements where the parent is a <div> element
<u>element+element</u>	div + p	Selects all <p> elements that are placed immediately after <div> elements
<u>element1~element2</u>	p ~ ul	Selects every element that are preceded by a <p>

		element
<u>[attribute]</u>	[target]	Selects all elements with a target attribute
<u>[attribute=value]</u>	[target=_blank]	Selects all elements with target="_blank"
<u>[attribute~=value]</u>	[title~=flower]	Selects all elements with a title attribute containing the word "flower"
<u>[attribute =value]</u>	[lang =en]	Selects all elements with a lang attribute value starting with "en"
<u>[attribute^=value]</u>	a[href^="https"]	Selects every <a> element whose href attribute value begins with "https"
<u>[attribute\$=value]</u>	a[href\$=".pdf"]	Selects every <a> element whose href attribute value ends with ".pdf"
<u>[attribute*=value]</u>	a[href*="w3schools"]	Selects every <a> element whose href attribute value contains the substring "w3schools"
<u>:active</u>	a:active	Selects the active link
<u>::after</u>	p::after	Insert something after the content of each <p> element
<u>::before</u>	p::before	Insert something before the content of each <p> element
<u>:checked</u>	input:checked	Selects every checked <input> element
<u>:default</u>	input:default	Selects the default <input> element

<u>:disabled</u>	input:disabled	Selects every disabled <input> element
<u>:empty</u>	p:empty	Selects every <p> element that has no children (including text nodes)
<u>:enabled</u>	input:enabled	Selects every enabled <input> element
<u>:first-child</u>	p:first-child	Selects every <p> element that is the first child of its parent
<u>::first-letter</u>	p::first-letter	Selects the first letter of every <p> element
<u>::first-line</u>	p::first-line	Selects the first line of every <p> element
<u>:first-of-type</u>	p:first-of-type	Selects every <p> element that is the first <p> element of its parent
<u>:focus</u>	input:focus	Selects the input element which has focus
<u>:hover</u>	a:hover	Selects links on mouse over
<u>:in-range</u>	input:in-range	Selects input elements with a value within a specified range
<u>:indeterminate</u>	input:indeterminate	Selects input elements that are in an indeterminate state
<u>:invalid</u>	input:invalid	Selects all input elements with an invalid value
<u>:lang(<i>language</i>)</u>	p:lang(it)	Selects every <p> element with a lang attribute equal to "it" (Italian)
<u>:last-child</u>	p:last-child	Selects every <p> element that is the last child of its parent

<u>:last-of-type</u>	p:last-of-type	Selects every <p> element that is the last <p> element of its parent
<u>:link</u>	a:link	Selects all unvisited links
<u>:not(selector)</u>	:not(p)	Selects every element that is not a <p> element
<u>:nth-child(n)</u>	p:nth-child(2)	Selects every <p> element that is the second child of its parent
<u>:nth-last-child(n)</u>	p:nth-last-child(2)	Selects every <p> element that is the second child of its parent, counting from the last child
<u>:nth-last-of-type(n)</u>	p:nth-last-of-type(2)	Selects every <p> element that is the second <p> element of its parent, counting from the last child
<u>:nth-of-type(n)</u>	p:nth-of-type(2)	Selects every <p> element that is the second <p> element of its parent
<u>:only-of-type</u>	p:only-of-type	Selects every <p> element that is the only <p> element of its parent
<u>:only-child</u>	p:only-child	Selects every <p> element that is the only child of its parent
<u>:optional</u>	input:optional	Selects input elements with no "required" attribute
<u>:out-of-range</u>	input:out-of-range	Selects input elements with a value outside a specified range
<u>::placeholder</u>	input::placeholder	Selects input elements with placeholder text
<u>:read-only</u>	input:read-only	Selects input elements with the "readonly" attribute specified

<u>:read-write</u>	input:read-write	Selects input elements with the "readonly" attribute NOT specified
<u>:required</u>	input:required	Selects input elements with the "required" attribute specified
<u>:root</u>	:root	Selects the document's root element
<u>::selection</u>	::selection	Selects the portion of an element that is selected by a user
<u>:target</u>	#news:target	Selects the current active #news element (clicked on a URL containing that anchor name)
<u>:valid</u>	input:valid	Selects all input elements with a valid value
<u>:visited</u>	a:visited	Selects all visited links