

**Learn CSS By Use Cases**

ebook by Joe Harrison



# CSS Reset File



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# CSS Reset File

## Intro

A CSS reset file allows us to override default property values for elements, that are applied by the web browser. Inside the reset file we will only ever target elements with the simple selectors: tag and universal.

## The Confusing Part

When searching around the web for help with your reset file, we often download them and they are very long and complex. They will often contain a few basic things you need, but many more things that you do not need.

I like to keep things simple, here's my version:

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## Box Sizing

```
* { box-sizing: border-box; }
```

Box sizing allows us to include the padding and border in an element's width and height, super useful in CSS. We set it on all elements with the universal simple selector.

## Body Spacing

```
body { margin: 0; padding: 0; }
```

The body tag has unwanted spacing by default. It wraps the entire website, so if you want your design to hit the edge of the screen - reset it.

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## Fonts

As form elements do not inherit font and colors by default, this is a good place to reset them. If you are using multiple fonts, only place the primary font styles here. Fonts that contain many fallback arguments can be quite long, sometimes spanning multiple lines. I find it works nice to bury this complexity away into your CSS reset file.

```
body,  
input,  
button,  
select,  
textarea {  
    font-family: "Poppins";  
    color: #222222;  
}
```

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## Anchor (or link)

Anchor comes with some rather ugly default styling. Luckily font families are inherited so we do not need to worry about those. All we have to do is set color: inherit on the most necessary pseudo classes and the font and color from our reset will be used. I prefer to add text-decoration (underline) to elements if needed.

```
a { text-decoration: none; }  
  
a:link { color: inherit; }  
  
a:hover { color: inherit; }  
  
a:active { color: inherit; }  
  
a:visited { color: inherit; }
```

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## Tables

Tables have two peculiar styling quirks set by default. The default border collapse value means that the table cells will have spacing between them, set it to collapse to fix this. Table headers (th) are text-align:center by default, where as, table cells (td) are text-align: left by default. Just be consistent is my tip.

```
table {  
    border-collapse: collapse;  
}  
  
th {  
    text-align: left;  
}
```

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## Headers



Headers usually have a default margin top and bottom (20px) and font weight (pre-defined keyword - bold). For margins I like to reset it to 0, then apply the right margin depending on how I'm styling that particular header. The font weight is dependant on the actual font family you have chosen.

```
h2,  
h3,  
h4,  
h5,  
h6 {  
    margin: 0;  
    font-weight: 500;  
}
```

500 is a number, however, it can be considered a pre-defined keyword specific to font-weight

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## Lists

Unordered and ordered lists have some strange default styling, so we can use shorthand to fix things up. The margin bottom argument can be set to your favoured length. The padding left argument can be set in rem or px and there is no real correct value here - just play around with the length until it looks right.

```
ul, ol {  
  margin: 0 0 1rem;  
  padding: 0 0 0 1rem;  
}
```

Ordered list's are much less common than unordered (bullet point) lists and may require their own reset styling.



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## Full Reset File



```
* { box-sizing: border-box; }

body { margin: 0; padding: 0; }

body,
input,
button,
select,
textarea { font-family: "Poppins"; color: 222222; }

a { text-decoration: none; }
a:link { color: inherit; }
a:hover { color: inherit; }
a:active { color: inherit; }
a:visited { color: inherit; }

table { border-collapse: collapse; }

th { text-align: left; }

h1, h2, h3, h4, h5, h6 { margin: 0; font-weight: 500; }

ul, ol { margin: 0 0 1rem; padding: 0 0 0 1rem; }
```

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## Knowledge Gained



box-sizing is super useful when an element has border and padding



Reset files should only use tag selectors and the universal selector



Web browsers apply unwanted styles to certain elements by default



Reset files should be simple and only include the things you need



Form elements do not inherit fonts



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