

**Learn CSS By Use Cases**

ebook by Joe Harrison



# Pseudo Elements

Along with  
**before after placeholder**



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# Pseudo Elements

## Intro

The main three pseudo elements I will cover here are: “before” which adds an extra element before, “after” which adds an extra element after and “placeholder” which is used to style the placeholder part of a textbox (input).

## Syntax

All pseudo elements are keywords prefixed with a double colon notation (they do not include any functions). We can only use one pseudo element in a selector and it must appear at the end of all simple selectors in the pattern. Most browsers will support using both colon (incorrect) and double colon (correct).

# Pseudo Elements

## Special Power

Using pseudo elements will result in less HTML which can be good for website SEO. Pseudo elements are useful for styling when we do not have access to the HTML.

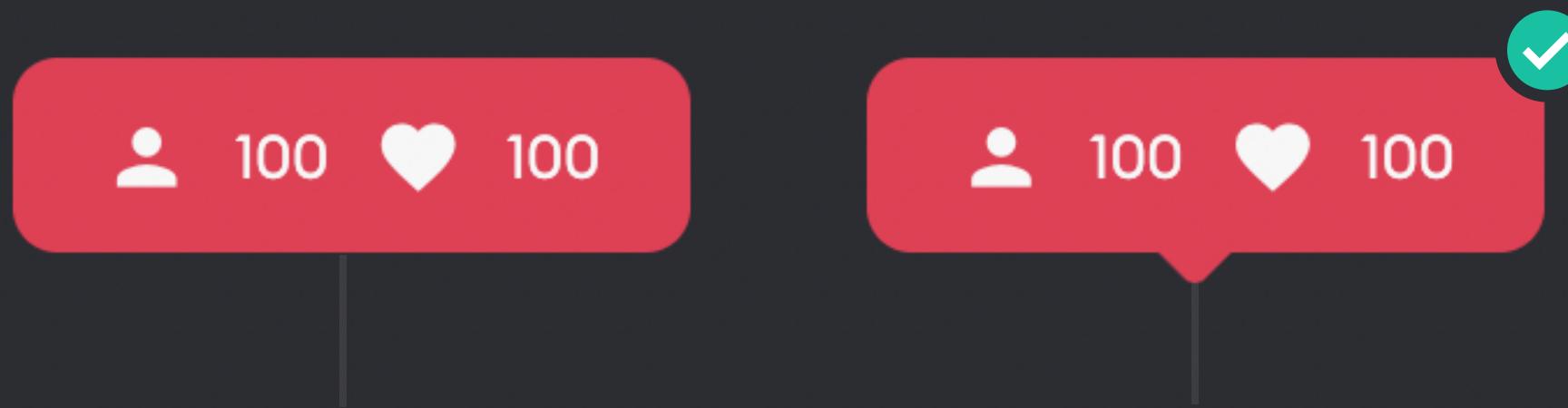
## Tips

Although pseudo elements are awesome, too many of them has been known to cause a headache when coming back to CSS code. For this reason, I try to (if possible) use them sparingly in my work.

**It's important to note, ::before and ::after require the “content” property being present to become visible.**

# Arrows

Add arrow to tooltip



Pseudo elements must have a content property to appear

::after

```
.bubble::after { content: ""; }
```

# Borders

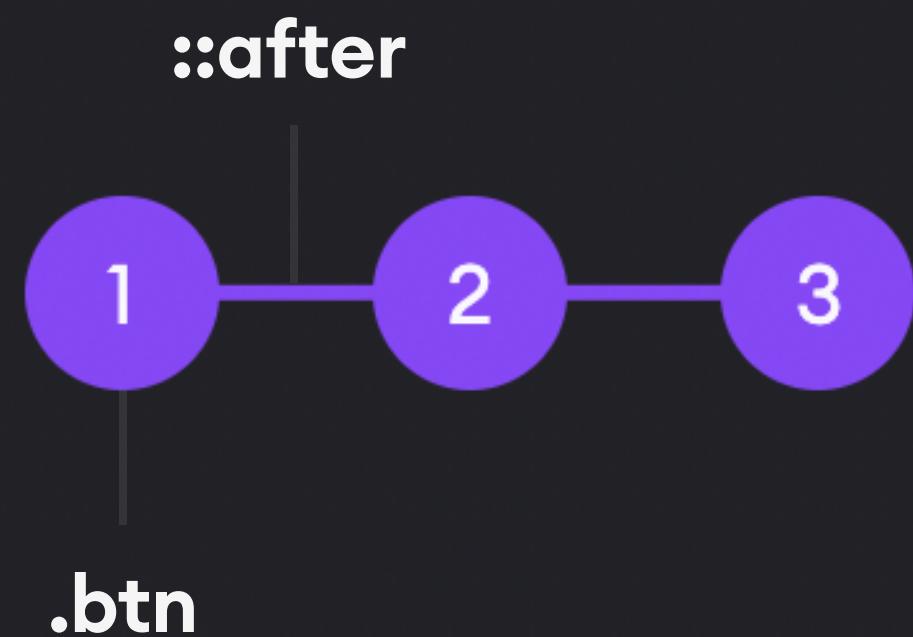
Add borders that don't take up space



```
.card {  
  position: relative;  
  text-align: center;  
}  
  
.card::before {  
  content: "";  
  position: absolute;  
  top: 0;  
  left: 0;  
}
```

# Timelines

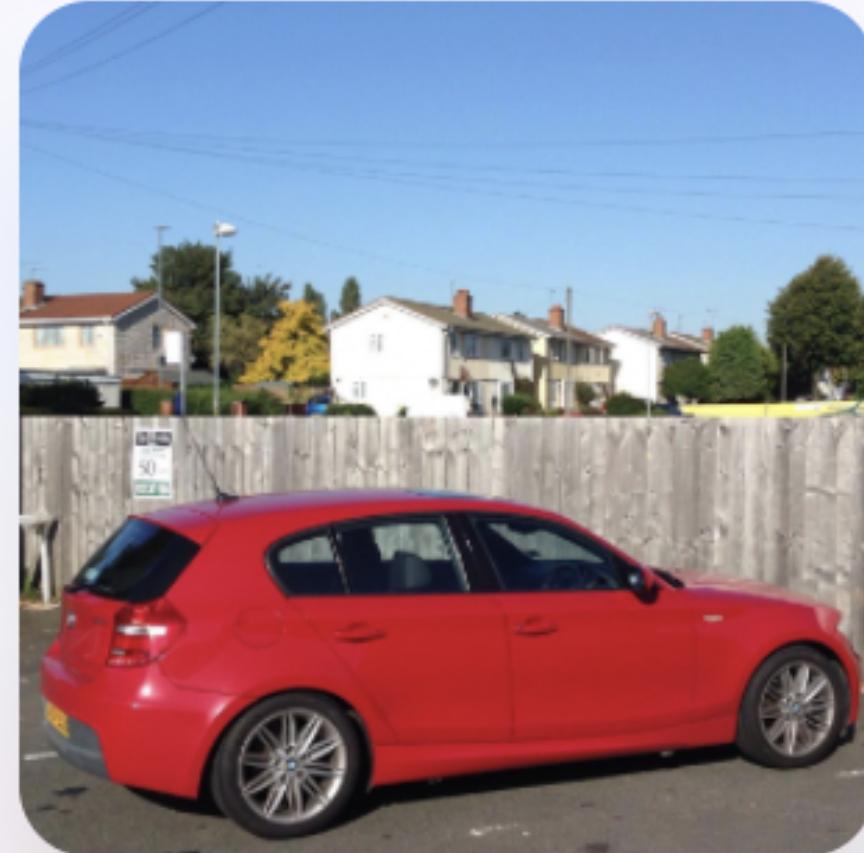
Add lines/shapes between elements



```
.btn:not(:last-child)::after {  
  content: "";  
  height: 4px;  
  background: #8f44fd;  
}
```

# Realistic shadows

Use both ::before and ::after



::before  
(image)

::after (blur shadow)

This is a real good example of pseudo elements in action so check it out in the source code

```
.image-card::after {  
  content: "";  
  filter: blur(1rem);  
  opacity: 0.2;  
}
```

# Image overlays

Add tint effects to images



```
.image::after {  
    content: " ";  
    background: #8f44fd;  
    opacity: 0.35;  
}
```

Similar to the previous example but instead we overlay our ::before (image) with a colored rectangle



# Tooltips

**Add an extra element with helpful text**

Extra info here

Hover for a tooltip



```
.tooltip-link {  
  position: relative;  
}  
  
.tooltip-link::before {  
  content: "Extra info here";  
  position: absolute;  
}
```

**When using `position absolute` pseudo elements, it's kind of irrelevant whether you use `::before` or `::after`**



# Placeholders

**Style text inputs consistently**



```
.input::placeholder { color: #b7adb9; }
```

**When working with text inputs, we can match the placeholder color to other components for that professional look**

# Pseudo Elements

## Properties

## Knowledge Gained

- 🏆 Pseudo elements are defined by adding a keyword to a selector
- 🏆 Pseudo elements are keywords prefixed with a double colon notation
- 🏆 Pseudo elements are used to add extra UI elements without modifying HTML
- 🏆 Only one pseudo element can be in a selector pattern and must appear last
- 🏆 ::before & ::after require content property



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