CSS **selectors** are patterns used to select and apply styles to specific HTML elements. They tell the browser which elements to style and how. Let’s go over the most common CSS selectors with simple explanations.

**1. Element Selector**

This selector targets all instances of a specific HTML tag (element).

**Example**:

p {

color: blue;

}

* This will make all <p> (paragraph) elements on the page have blue text.

**2. Class Selector**

This selector targets elements that have a specific class attribute. It uses a dot (.) followed by the class name.

**Example**:

.blue-text {

color: blue;

}

* HTML:

<p class="blue-text">This text is blue.</p>

* This will only apply blue color to the paragraph with the class blue-text.

**3. ID Selector**

This selector targets an element with a specific id attribute. It uses a hash (#) followed by the id name.

**Example**:

#main-title {

font-size: 24px;

}

* HTML:

<h1 id="main-title">Main Title</h1>

* This will only apply the font size of 24px to the element with the id main-title.

**4. Universal Selector**

This selector targets **all** elements on the page. It’s written as an asterisk (\*).

**Example**:

\* {

margin: 0;

padding: 0;

}

* This removes the default margin and padding from all elements on the page.

**5. Group Selector**

This selector allows you to apply the same styles to multiple elements by listing them and separating with a comma.

**Example**:

h1, h2, p {

font-family: Arial, sans-serif;

}

* This will apply the same font family to all <h1>, <h2>, and <p> elements.

**6. Descendant Selector**

This selector targets an element that is inside another element. It is written with a space between the two selectors.

**Example**:

div p {

color: green;

}

* HTML:

<div>

<p>This paragraph is inside a div and will be green.</p>

</div>

* This applies green text to all <p> elements that are inside a <div>.

**7. Child Selector**

This selector targets only **direct child elements** of a specified element. It is written using the > symbol.

**Example**:

ul > li {

color: red;

}

* HTML:

<ul>

<li>Item 1</li>

<li>Item 2</li>

</ul>

* This will make the direct <li> children of the <ul> red.

**8. Attribute Selector**

This selector targets elements based on their attributes and values. It's written inside square brackets [].

**Example**:

input[type="text"] {

border: 1px solid black;

}

* This will style all <input> elements that have a type="text" attribute with a black border.

**9. Pseudo-class Selector**

This selector targets elements based on their state or position. Common pseudo-classes include :hover, :first-child, and :nth-child().

**Example**:

a:hover {

color: red;

}

* This will make a link turn red when the user hovers over it.

**10. Pseudo-element Selector**

This selector targets specific parts of an element, like the first letter, first line, or inserting content before or after an element. It's written with ::.

**Example**:

p::first-letter {

font-size: 30px;

}

* This will make the first letter of each paragraph larger.

**Summary**

CSS selectors allow you to target and style HTML elements based on their tags, classes, ids, attributes, positions, or states. The most common ones include element, class, and id selectors, but you can combine them to create more specific styling rules.