

# Text Color

This lesson talks about the text color in different themes.

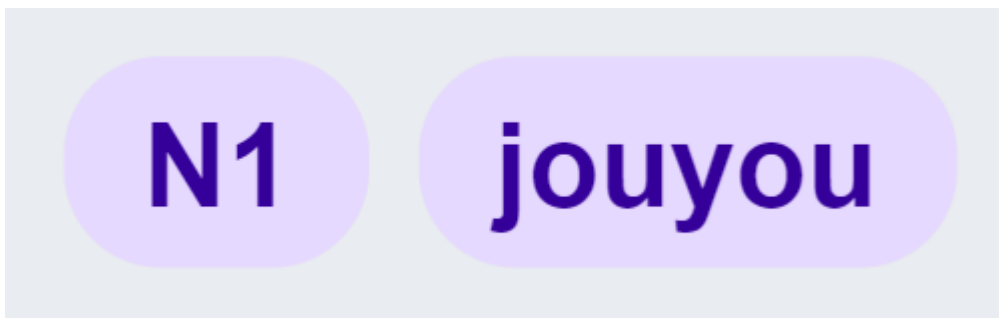
## WE'LL COVER THE FOLLOWING ^

- Main text colors
- Palette text colors
- Tools
- Conclusion

Text colors, for the most part, are easier to deal with than background colors. The “Alpha compositing” problem that we discussed in the previous lesson doesn’t apply as severely here, and we usually only need one or two main text colors: a text color and a secondary text color. An example use case of this is using the secondary text color for less emphasized text:

This is a title  
This is a subheading

In addition to the main text colors, we might also need a text color for each color in our palette. A nice use case for this is creating colorful labels:



As you can see, we’re using a purple text color over a light purple background. If you recall, the CSS variable for the text color here would be `--purple-text`.

Main text colors #

# Main text colors #



We can start by defining the main text color in the app, which will depend on the brightness of the theme.

For light themes, we'll use a blackish color and for dark themes, we'll use a whitish color. To create a secondary text color that we can use in places where you want less emphasis on the text, we can use opacity (alpha channel) on the main text color. For that we'll be using `rgba`:

```
rgba($text-color, .7)
```

The text color blending into the background here is often desirable (unlike with background colors, as explained in the previous lesson), so using the alpha channel is usually OK for text color.

- Light theme

Output
HTML
CSS (SCSS)
<pre>This is a title This is a subheading</pre>
<div></div>

- Dark theme

Output
HTML
CSS (SCSS)

```
This is a title
This is a subheading
```



## Palette text colors #

Sometimes, we might want to style a certain component with a palette color as a background. Let's take a label as an example:

Output

HTML

CSS (SCSS)

```
css-theming
```



This works, but a nicer look is using a similar color to the background as a text color:

Output

HTML

CSS (SCSS)

```
css-theming
```



This is not bad, but because we're using the same color in the background, we might want to see a bit more contrast by darkening the text color. We do this in SCSS using the `darken` function:

```
darken(color, percentage)
```

**Note:** `darken` is a SCSS function that returns a darker color than the one you give it, according to the percentage you specify.

Output

HTML

CSS (SCSS)

css-theming



Now it looks better, and it has become more compatible with [AA standard contrast ratios](#).

This does it for the light theme. In a dark theme, we'll have to do the inverse. Let's first display an example from the previous lesson where the normal color of blue is used in the text and a dark-compatible color (`black`) is used as a background:

Output

HTML

CSS (SCSS)

css-theming



In the case of a dark theme, we'll have to **lighten** the text color a bit to get a good result:

```
lighten(color, percentage)
```

**Note:** **lighten** is a SCSS function that returns a lighter color than the one you give it, according to the percentage you specify.

We'll get a *paler* text color which goes well with the overall dark nature of the theme:

Output

HTML

CSS (SCSS)

css-theming



## Tools #

Here are some useful tools that can tell you how close to standard contrast your colors are:

- colorable
- contrast-ratio

## Conclusion #

Using this method of mixing and creating colors will result in the following palette:

- Light theme

grey	Sample	
brown	Sample	
yellow	Sample	
gold	Sample	
orange	Sample	
red-orange	Sample	
red	Sample	
pink	Sample	
purple	Sample	
violet	Sample	
indigo	Sample	
blue	Sample	
sky-blue	Sample	
lemon-green	Sample	
green-blue	Sample	
green	Sample	

- Dark theme

grey	Sample	
brown	Sample	
yellow	Sample	
gold	Sample	
orange	Sample	
red orange	Sample	
red	Sample	
pink	Sample	
purple	Sample	
violet	Sample	
indigo	Sample	
blue	Sample	
sky-blue	Sample	
lemon-green	Sample	
green-blue	Sample	
green	Sample	

That's pretty much it for text colors! In the next lesson, we'll learn how to deal with borders.