



CSS Pseudo-elements

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What are Pseudo-Elements?

A CSS pseudo-element is used to style specified parts of an element.

For example, it can be used to:

- Style the first letter, or line, of an element
- Insert content before, or after, the content of an element

Syntax

The syntax of pseudo-elements:

```
selector::pseudo-element {  
  property: value;  
}
```

The ::first-line Pseudo-element

The `::first-line` pseudo-element is used to add a special style to the first line of a text.

The following example formats the first line of the text in all `<p>` elements:

Example



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Note: The `::first-line` pseudo-element can only be applied to block-level elements.

The following properties apply to the `::first-line` pseudo-element:

- font properties
- color properties
- background properties
- word-spacing
- letter-spacing
- text-decoration
- vertical-align
- text-transform
- line-height
- clear

Notice the double colon notation - `::first-line` versus `:first-line`

The double colon replaced the single-colon notation for pseudo-elements in CSS3. This was an attempt from W3C to distinguish between **pseudo-classes** and **pseudo-elements**.

The single-colon syntax was used for both pseudo-classes and pseudo-elements in CSS2 and CSS1.

For backward compatibility, the single-colon syntax is acceptable for CSS2 and CSS1 pseudo-elements.

The ::first-letter Pseudo-element



Example

```
p::first-letter {  
  color: #ff0000;  
  font-size: xx-large;  
}
```

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Note: The `::first-letter` pseudo-element can only be applied to block-level elements.

The following properties apply to the `::first-letter` pseudo- element:

- font properties
- color properties
- background properties
- margin properties
- padding properties
- border properties
- text-decoration
- vertical-align (only if "float" is "none")
- text-transform
- line-height
- float
- clear

Pseudo-elements and HTML Classes

Pseudo-elements can be combined with HTML classes:

Example

```
p.intro::first-letter {  
  color: #ff0000;
```



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The example above will display the first letter of paragraphs with class="intro", in red and in a larger size.

Multiple Pseudo-elements

Several pseudo-elements can also be combined.

In the following example, the first letter of a paragraph will be red, in an xx-large font size. The rest of the first line will be blue, and in small-caps. The rest of the paragraph will be the default font size and color:

Example

```
p::first-letter {  
  color: #ff0000;  
  font-size: xx-large;  
}  
  
p::first-line {  
  color: #0000ff;  
  font-variant: small-caps;  
}
```

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CSS - The ::before Pseudo-element

The `::before` pseudo-element can be used to insert some content before the content of an element.

The following example inserts an image before the content of each `<h1>` element:



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```
h1::before {  
  content: url(smiley.gif);  
}
```

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CSS - The ::after Pseudo-element

The `::after` pseudo-element can be used to insert some content after the content of an element.

The following example inserts an image after the content of each `<h1>` element:

Example

```
h1::after {  
  content: url(smiley.gif);  
}
```

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CSS - The ::marker Pseudo-element

The `::marker` pseudo-element selects the markers of list items.

The following example styles the markers of list items:

Example

```
::marker {  
  color: red;
```



CSS - The ::selection Pseudo-element

The **::selection** pseudo-element matches the portion of an element that is selected by a user.

The following CSS properties can be applied to **::selection** : **color** , **background** , **cursor** , and **outline** .

The following example makes the selected text red on a yellow background:

Example

```
::selection {  
  color: red;  
  background: yellow;  
}
```

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Test Yourself With Exercises

Exercise:

Set the background-color to red, of the first line of the paragraph.

<style>

{



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<body>

<p class="intro">

In my younger and more vulnerable years

my father gave me some advice that I've

been turning over in my mind ever since.

'Whenever you feel like criticizing anyone,' he told me,

'just remember that all the people in this world

haven't had the advantages that you've had.'

</p>

</body>

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All CSS Pseudo Elements

| Selector | Example | Example description |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|---|
| <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>::first-letter</u> | p::first-letter | Selects the first letter of each <p> element |
| <u>::first-line</u> | p::first-line | Selects the first line of each <p> element |

All CSS Pseudo Classes

| Selector | Example | Example description |
|---|-----------------|--|
| <u>:active</u> | a:active | Selects the active link |
| <u>:checked</u> | input:checked | Selects every checked <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 |
| <u>:enabled</u> | input:enabled | Selects every enabled <input> element |
| <u>:first-child</u> | p:first-child | Selects every <p> elements that is the first child of its parent |
| <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 that 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>: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 value starting with "it" |
| <u>:last-child</u> | p:last-child | Selects every <p> elements 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 |

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|--|-----------------------|--|
| | | 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>:read-only</u> | input:read-only | Selects <input> elements with a "readonly" attribute specified |
| <u>:read-write</u> | input:read-write | Selects <input> elements with no "readonly" attribute |
| <u>:required</u> | input:required | Selects <input> elements with a "required" attribute specified |
| <u>:root</u> | root | Selects the document's root element |
| <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 |



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