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CSS Pseudo-classes

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What are Pseudo-classes?

A pseudo-class is used to define a special state of an element.

For example, it can be used to:

- Style an element when a user mouses over it
- Style visited and unvisited links differently
- Style an element when it gets focus

Mouse Over Me

Click Me To Get Focus

Syntax

The syntax of pseudo-classes:

```
selector:pseudo-class {
  property: value;
```

Anchor Pseudo-classes



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```
/* unvisited link */
a:link {
 color: #FF0000;
}
/* visited link */
a:visited {
  color: #00FF00;
}
/* mouse over link */
a:hover {
 color: #FF00FF;
}
/* selected link */
a:active {
  color: #0000FF;
```

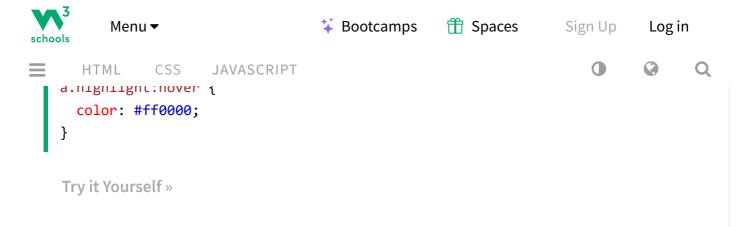
Try it Yourself »

Note: a:hover MUST come after a:link and a:visited in the CSS definition in order to be effective! a:active MUST come after a:hover in the CSS definition in order to be effective! Pseudo-class names are not case-sensitive.

Pseudo-classes and HTML Classes

Pseudo-classes can be combined with HTML classes:

When you hover over the link in the example, it will change color:



Hover on <div>

An example of using the :hover pseudo-class on a <div> element:

Example

```
div:hover {
   background-color: blue;
}
```

Try it Yourself »

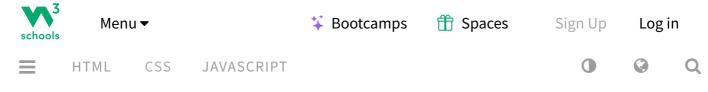
Simple Tooltip Hover

Hover over a <div> element to show a element (like a tooltip):

Hover over me to show the element.

Example

```
p {
    display: none;
    background-color: yellow;
    padding: 20px;
}
```



Try it Yourself »

CSS - The :first-child Pseudo-class

The :first-child pseudo-class matches a specified element that is the first child of another element.

Match the first element

In the following example, the selector matches any element that is the first child of any element:

Example

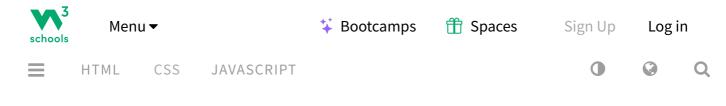
```
p:first-child {
   color: blue;
}
```

Try it Yourself »

Match the first <i> element in all elements

In the following example, the selector matches the first <i> element in all <p> elements:

Example



Match all <i> elements in all first child elements

In the following example, the selector matches all <i> elements in elements that are the first child of another element:

Example

```
p:first-child i {
  color: blue;
}
```

Try it Yourself »

Try it Yourself »

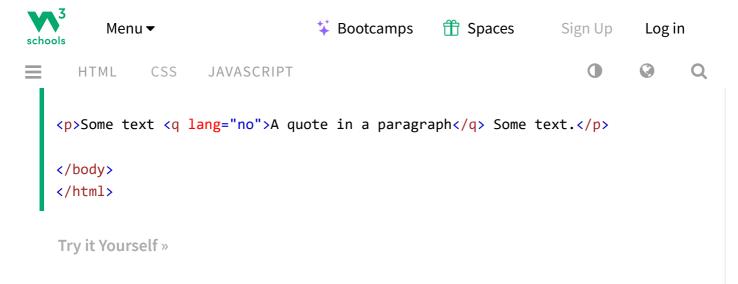
CSS - The :lang Pseudo-class

The :lang pseudo-class allows you to define special rules for different languages.

In the example below, :lang defines the quotation marks for <q> elements with lang="no":

Example

```
<html>
<head>
<style>
q:lang(no) {
  quotes: "~" "~";
```



More Examples

Add different styles to hyperlinks

This example demonstrates how to add other styles to hyperlinks.

Use of :focus

This example demonstrates how to use the :focus pseudo-class.

Test Yourself With Exercises

Exercise:

Set the background-color to red, when you mouse over a link.

```
<style>
     {
    background-color: red;
}
</style>
<body>
```



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</body>

Submit Answer »

Start the Exercise

All CSS Pseudo Classes

| Selector | Example | Example description |
|----------------|-----------------|---|
| :active | a:active | Selects the active link |
| :checked | input:checked | Selects every checked <input/> element |
| :disabled | input:disabled | Selects every disabled <input/> element |
| <u>:empty</u> | p:empty | Selects every element that has no children |
| :enabled | input:enabled | Selects every enabled <input/> element |
| :first-child | p:first-child | Selects every elements that is the first child of its parent |
| :first-of-type | p:first-of-type | Selects every element that is the first element of its parent |
| :focus | input:focus | Selects the <input/> element that has focus |
| :hover | a:hover | Selects links on mouse over |
| :in-range | input:in-range | Selects <input/> elements with a value within a specified range |

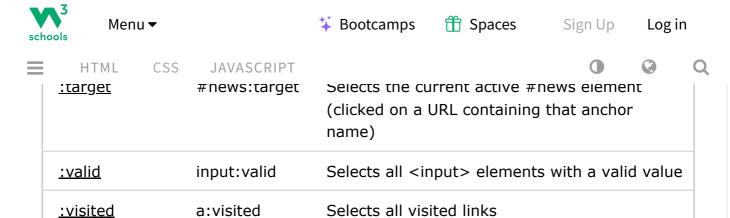


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|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| | r - 3(-) | attribute value starting with "it" |
| :last-child | p:last-child | Selects every elements that is the last child of its parent |
| :last-of-type | p:last-of-type | Selects every element that is the last element of its parent |
| :link | a:link | Selects all unvisited links |
| :not(selector) | :not(p) | Selects every element that is not a element |
| :nth-child(n) | p:nth-child(2) | Selects every element that is the second child of its parent |
| :nth-last- child(n) | p:nth-last- child(2) | Selects every element that is the second child of its parent, counting from the last child |
| :nth-last-of- type(n) | p:nth-last-of- type(2) | Selects every element that is the second element of its parent, counting from the last child |
| :nth-of-type(n) | p:nth-of- type(2) | Selects every element that is the second element of its parent |
| :only-of-type | p:only-of-type | Selects every element that is the only element of its parent |
| :only-child | p:only-child | Selects every element that is the only child of its parent |
| :optional | input:optional | Selects <input/> elements with no "required" attribute |
| :out-of-range | input:out-of- range | Selects <input/> elements with a value outside a specified range |
| :read-only | input:read- only | Selects <input/> elements with a "readonly" attribute specified |
| :read-write | input:read- write | Selects <input/> elements with no "readonly" attribute |
| :required | input:required | Selects <input/> elements with a "required" |



All CSS Pseudo Elements

| Selector | Example | Example description |
|----------------|-----------------|--|
| ::after | p::after | Insert content after every element |
| ::before | p::before | Insert content before every element |
| ::first-letter | p::first-letter | Selects the first letter of every element |
| ::first-line | p::first-line | Selects the first line of every element |
| ::marker | ::marker | Selects the markers of list items |
| ::selection | p::selection | Selects the portion of an element that is selected by a user |

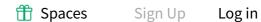
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