**CSS Selectors**

In a CSS file, selectors are used to represent parts of your HTML so that you can target specific elements and apply style rules to them.

You can target elements by their **tag names**.

A close-up of a blue background

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You can also use **class** and **ID selectors** to target specific elements. Only elements with a matching id or class will be styled.

For example, the id of content and the class highlight are being targeted in the example.

A white background with black text

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### **Descendant Selectors**

**Descendant selectors** target elements **within** other elements.  
For instance:

* Paragraphs inside a <div>
* Elements with the class highlight inside a <section>

Only those nested elements will be affected.

A close-up of a computer code

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### **Group Selectors**

With **group selectors**, you can target multiple elements at once by separating them with commas.  
For example, all <h1>, <h2>, <p>, and <li> elements can be grouped and styled together.

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### **Pseudo-Class Selectors**

**Pseudo-class selectors** let you target elements in specific states or positions.  
For example:

* a:hover targets only anchor tags that are being hovered over.
* li:nth-of-type(3) targets the **third** list item of its type.

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### **Descendant Combinators: A Closer Look**

Let’s take a closer look at **descendant combinators**.

**div p**

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This targets all <p> elements **inside** a <div> (not just direct children—any level of nesting).

Let’s look at some you many have not seen. Here we see the selector:

**div > p**

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This targets only <p> elements that are **direct children** of a <div>.  
Notice that a <p> inside a nested <section> wouldn't be selected because it's a **grandchild**, not a direct child.

Here we see the selector:

**h1 + p**

A screenshot of a computer

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This targets the **immediate sibling**—the first <p> that comes **right after** an <h1>.

Here we see the selector:

**h1 ~ p**

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This targets **all sibling <p> elements** that come **after** an <h1>.

### **More Pseudo-Class Selectors**

Here are some additional pseudo-class selectors:

* p:first-child — targets a <p> only if it is the **first child** of its parent.
* p:last-child — targets a <p> only if it is the **last child**.
* li:nth-child(odd) — targets all **odd-numbered** <li> elements (1st, 3rd, 5th, etc).
* input:focus — targets an <input> element **only when it is focused**.

There are many more!  
For a full reference, check out:  
🔗 <https://www.w3schools.com/cssref/css_ref_pseudo_classes.php>

### **CSS Attribute Selectors**

**Attribute selectors** let you target elements based on their attributes in the HTML.

Examples:

* a[target="\_blank"] — targets all <a> tags with a target attribute set to \_blank.
* input[type="text"] — targets only <input> elements where the type attribute is "text".