Cascading Style Sheets (or CSS) is language that enhances HTML, or other markup languages, so that a browser will render a web page with specific formatting and layout for how the page will be visually displayed to a viewer (“How CSS Works”, February 15, 2018).

**What does it mean that the style sheets are cascading?**

For laypeople, the word cascade means a downward flow of water that happens in stages over rock ledges, as depicted in this picture.



(Cascade du Hérisson, n.d.)

In CSS, the idea that style sheets ***cascade*** means that there is a specific algorithm that controls the order or flow in which the styles get applied to a webpage (“Cascade and Inheritance”, June 15, 2018). What this means is that sometimes CSS rules might have selectors pointing to the same element, or different style/layout code directed at the same part of the website. If there are conflicting styles being applied to an element, only one of them can be displayed to the user. The cascade determines the order of priority of the CSS rules which could get applied to an element, based on importance, specificity, and order in the source code (“Cascade and Inheritance”, June 15, 2018).

**What is the order of priority of CSS?**

When there are multiple style declarations to an element that conflict, they will be applied in the following order, with the last one being displayed for the viewer:

1. Declarations in user agent style sheets (e.g. the browser's default styles, used when no other styling is set).
2. Normal declarations in user style sheets (custom styles set by a user).
3. Normal declarations in author style sheets (these are the styles set by us, the web developers).
4. Important declarations in author style sheets
5. Important declarations in user style sheets

(excerpted from “Cascade and Inheritance”, June 15, 2018)

In summary, the developer’s style sheet almost always overrides other style sheets, unless the user’s style sheet is tagged as “!important.” In addition, specific styles override general styles and when rules have equal specificity, the rule closest to the element overrides the others (“The ‘Cascade’ of CSS”, n.d.).

**List 5 things you can do with CSS, which cannot be done easily in HTML.**

**Illustrate your answers with working code and cite all sources in APA style which inform your writing.**

One website I found showed multiple cool things you can do with CSS that cannot be easily done with HTML alone (Walsh, May 5, 2014). I chose to discuss 5 of the tips here. However, the code for the last tip comes from [www.w3schools.com](http://www.w3schools.com) as the other website’s code was very complicated. In order to show you both the code and the results, I used [www.w3schools.com](http://www.w3schools.com) Tryit Editor (n.d.). Please click on the links to view and run the code to see the result.

1. Create a circle  
   <https://www.w3schools.com/code/tryit.asp?filename=FT8QU7HZJ5PM>
2. Filter an image  
   <https://www.w3schools.com/code/tryit.asp?filename=FT8RSZW8ARSK>
3. Disable pointer clicks  
   <https://www.w3schools.com/code/tryit.asp?filename=FT8SOV6L29WH>
4. Use counters for a table of contents  
   <https://www.w3schools.com/code/tryit.asp?filename=FT91ON2D072J>
5. Make slideshows  
   <https://www.w3schools.com/code/tryit.asp?filename=FT939XA6QSY9>

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