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# How does Tailwind CSS work exactly?

 JavaScript Mastery



Tailwind CSS works by **rethinking traditional CSS** with a **utility-first approach**.

So instead of writing **custom class names** for elements, Tailwind breaks styles into **small, reusable utility classes**.



For example, instead of a **div** with a class of **container**, or an **h1** with a class of **container-heading...**

```
<div class="container">  
  <h1 class="container_heading">Pure CSS</h1>  
</div>
```

```
.container {  
  display: flex;  
  justify-content: center;  
  align-items: center  
}  
  
.container_heading {  
  color: blue;  
  font-size: 12px;  
}
```



...you could add these instead:

- **flex** – display: flex
- **justify-center** – justify-content: center

**flex**



```
.flex{  
  display: flex  
}
```

There are similar utilities for **colors, font sizes, and more.**

With these **pre-defined classes**, you compose styles directly in your HTML by **combining utilities**, like:

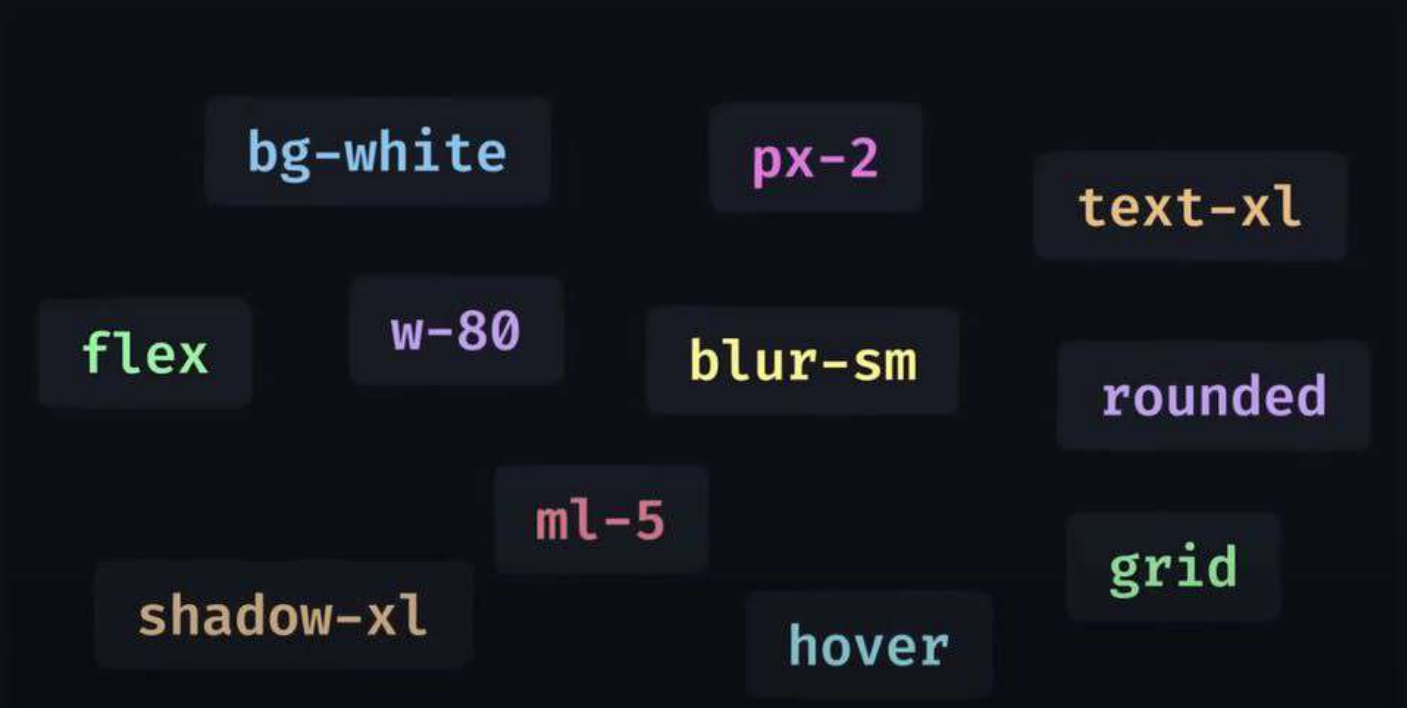
- 'flex justify-center items-center' on a **div**
- 'text-lg font-bold' on a **<p>** tag.



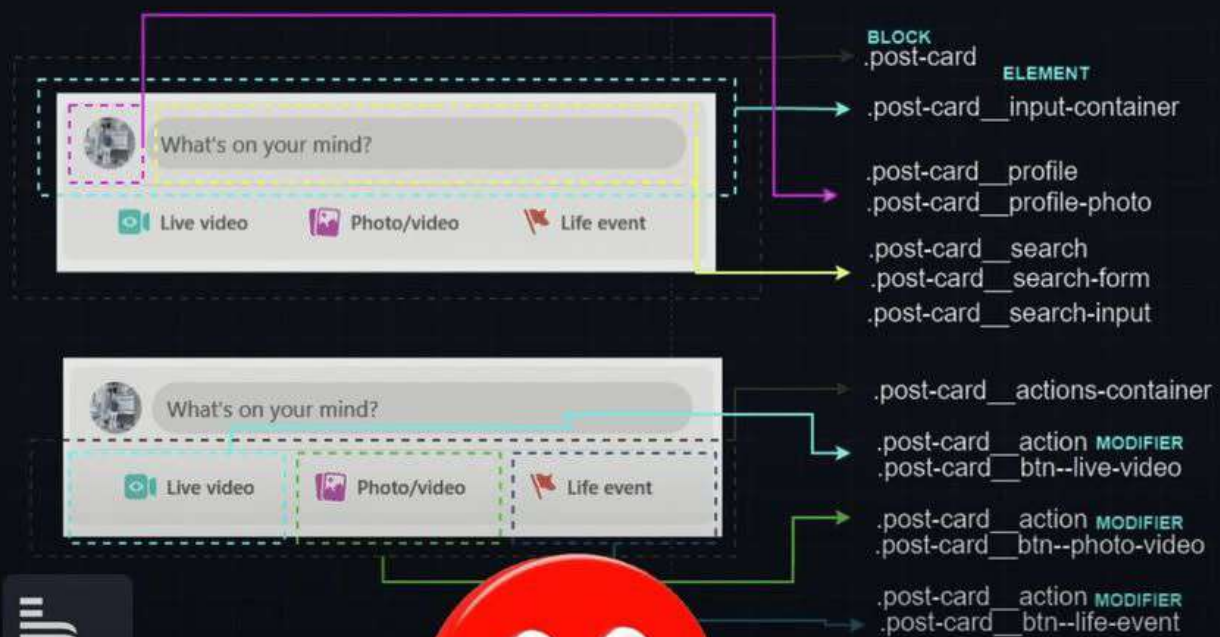
```
<div class="flex justify-center items-center">  
  <p class="text-blue text-sm">Pure CSS with a Twist</p>  
</div>
```



This **eliminates the need** to write custom CSS rules – you build designs by layering automatic utility classes **directly in your markup**.



This might feel like just a lot of extra work,  
but it'll save you hours because **you won't  
have to worry about class names!**





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