CSS can be applied to an HTML document in three main ways: Inline CSS, Internal CSS, and External CSS. Let's explore each type in detail.

**1. Inline CSS**

* **Definition**: Styles are directly added to the HTML element using the style attribute.
* **Use Case**: Best for quick, one-time styles on a single element.

**Example :**

**<!DOCTYPE html>**

**<html lang="en">**

**<head>**

**<title>Inline CSS Example</title>**

**</head>**

**<body>**

**<h1 style="color: blue; font-size: 24px;">Hello, Inline CSS!</h1>**

**<p style="background-color: yellow; padding: 10px;">This paragraph uses inline CSS.</p>**

**</body>**

**</html>**

**2. Internal CSS**

* Definition: Styles are defined within a <style> tag inside the <head> section of the HTML document.
* Use Case: Useful for styling a single HTML document with multiple elements.

**Example :**

**<!DOCTYPE html>**

**<html lang="en">**

**<head>**

**<title>Internal CSS Example</title>**

**<style>**

**body {**

**font-family: Arial, sans-serif;**

**background-color: #f0f0f0;**

**}**

**h1 {**

**color: green;**

**text-align: center;**

**}**

**p {**

**color: darkgray;**

**font-size: 18px;**

**}**

**</style>**

**</head>**

**<body>**

**<h1>Welcome to Internal CSS</h1>**

**<p>This paragraph demonstrates the use of internal CSS.</p>**

**</body>**

**</html>**

**3. External CSS**

* Definition: Styles are written in a separate .css file and linked to the HTML document using a <link> tag.
* Use Case: Ideal for projects with multiple pages to ensure consistency and easier maintenance.

**Example :**

**<!DOCTYPE html>**

**<html lang="en">**

**<head>**

**<title>External CSS Example</title>**

**<link rel="stylesheet" href="styles.css">**

**</head>**

**<body>**

**<h1>Welcome to External CSS</h1>**

**<p>This paragraph is styled using external CSS.</p>**

**</body>**

**</html>**

**CSS File (styles.css):**

**body {**

**font-family: 'Verdana', sans-serif;**

**background-color: #e0f7fa;**

**}**

**h1 {**

**color: navy;**

**text-align: left;**

**}**

**p {**

**color: #555;**

**font-size: 16px;**

**line-height: 1.5;**

**}**

**Conclusion**

* Inline CSS is for quick fixes.
* Internal CSS works well for single-page projects.
* External CSS is the best practice for larger projects due to its reusability and maintainability.