A media query is a CSS technique used to apply styles based on the characteristics of the device displaying the content, such as its width, height, resolution, and orientation. Media queries are a cornerstone of responsive web design, allowing developers to create web pages that look good on all devices, from desktops to tablets to smartphones.

Here's a basic example of a media query:

Css

```
/* Default styles */
body {
    background-color: white;
    color: black;
}

/* Styles for devices with a maximum width of 600px */
@media (max-width: 600px) {
    body {
       background-color: lightgray;
       color: blue;
    }
}
```

In this example, the default background color is white and the text color is black. However, if the device's width is 600 pixels or less, the background color changes to light gray and the text color changes to blue.

Key Features of Media Queries

1. **Breakpoints:** Define specific points where the layout changes to accommodate different screen sizes. Common breakpoints include 480px, 768px, 1024px, etc.

Css

```
@media (max-width: 768px) {
   /* Styles for tablets and smaller devices */
}
```

```
@media (max-width: 480px) {
  /* Styles for mobile devices */
}
```

2. **Orientation:** Target styles based on the device's orientation (landscape or portrait).

Css

```
@media (orientation: landscape) {
   /* Styles for landscape orientation */
}

@media (orientation: portrait) {
   /* Styles for portrait orientation */
}
```

3. **Resolution:** Apply styles based on the screen resolution.

Css

```
@media (min-resolution: 2dppx) {
   /* Styles for high-resolution screens */
}
```

4. **Combining Conditions:** Combine multiple conditions using logical operators like and, or, and not.

Css

```
@media (min-width: 600px) and (orientation: landscape) {
   /* Styles for devices with a minimum width of 600px in landscape
orientation */
}
```