CSS Styling for HTML Tables

Date: June 27, 2025
Author: [Your Name]

Table of Contents

Introduction

CSS allows you to transform plain HTML tables into attractive, readable, and interactive data displays. This document covers all major CSS techniques you can apply to HTML tables, with code examples.

Basic Table Styling

```
table {
  width: 100%;
  border-collapse: collapse;
  font-family: Arial, sans-serif;
}
th, td {
  padding: 12px;
  border: 1px solid #333;
```

```
}
```

Borders and Spacing

- Border Collapse:
  `border-collapse: collapse;` merges adjacent borders.
- Border Spacing:
  `border-spacing: 8px;` adds space between cells.

Text and Font Styling

```css
th {
  text-align: left;
  font-size: 18px;
  color: #fff;
  background: #333;
}
td {
  text-align: center;
  font-size: 16px;
}
```

Backgrounds and Zebra Striping

```css
tr:nth-child(even) {
  background-color: #f2f2f2;
}
tr:nth-child(odd) {
  background-color: #fff;
}
```

Hover Effects

```css
tr:hover {
  background-color: #ffe082;
}
```

Column and Row Styling

```css
td:first-child {
  font-weight: bold;
}
td:nth-child(2) {
  color: #00796b;
}
```

Responsive Tables

```css
.table-responsive {
  overflow-x: auto;
  display: block;
}
```

Usage:
Wrap your `<table>` in a `<div class="table-responsive">...</div>` to make it scrollable on small screens.

Advanced Techniques

- Pseudo-elements:
- `css`

```css
td::first-line {
```

```css
  color: red;
}
```

-
- Section Styling:
- css

```css
thead {
  background-color: #eee;
}
tfoot {
  border-top: 2px solid #333;
  font-weight: bold;
}
```

-
- Custom Cell Highlighting:
- css

```css
.cell-highlight {
  background: gold;
  font-weight: bold;
}
```

-

Summary Table

Feature	Example CSS Property/Selector	Description
Borders	border, border-collapse	Add/collapse borders
Padding/Spacing	padding, border-spacing	Cell and cell-to-cell spacing

Text Alignment/Font	text-align, font-family, font-size	Control text appearance
Background/Striping	background-color, nth-child	Color cells/rows, zebra striping
Hover Effects	:hover	Highlight on mouseover
Column/Row Styling	nth-child, first-child, last-child	Target specific columns/rows
Table Layout/Width	width, table-layout	Control sizing and layout
Responsiveness	overflow-x, frameworks	Adapt to small screens
Pseudo-classes/elements	:first-child, ::first-line	Target parts of cells
Table Sections	thead, tbody, tfoot	Style headers, body, footers
CSS Grid Layout	display: grid	Advanced custom layouts
Cell Highlighting	.cell-highlight	Style individual cells

References

- [MDN Web Docs: Styling Tables](#)
- [W3Schools: HTML Table Styling](#)
- [CSS-Tricks: Table Styling](#)