

# CSS Basics

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## An intro to Cascading Stylesheets

JOUR652: Interactive Design &  
Development

# CSS Reference

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[W3Schools](#)

[HTML Dog](#)

# Cascading Stylesheets

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**CSS=Cascading Style Sheets**

Mark-up language for defining styles in Web pages

Defines fonts, colors, margins, lines, height, width, layouts – and more

# HTML vs CSS

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HTML defines STRUCTURE of page and its content

CSS applies FORMATTING to the content

# Why CSS?

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Control layout of many documents from **single style sheet**.

More precise layout control.

Apply different layouts to **different media types** (phone, tablet, laptop, etc.).

# Two steps

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1. Define styles for each element of a page in your CSS stylesheet.
2. Apply the styles to your Web page (in the html doc).

# What is it?

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Let's look at a really basic CSS style to see how it works

## CSS

```
H1 {  
  color: red;  
}
```

## HTML

```
<H1>Hello World<H1>
```

The CSS **selects H1** from the HTML and changes its **color to red**. **Easy, right?**

# CSS terms to know

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**Stylesheet:** Collection of CSS code that defines style  
Selector: HTML tag whose appearance you modify  
w/CSS: <p> or <font>

**Property:** Aspect of an element you want to define, like  
“color” or “size.”

**Value:** Defines how a property (like color) should be set  
(like “red”)



# CSS syntax

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**Selector {property:  
value;}**

p {font-size: 12px;}

b {color: red;}

BODY {font-family: helvetica, sans-serif;}

# CSS syntax

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CSS declaration ends with semicolon

Declaration group is surrounded by curly brackets

```
p {color:red; text-align:center;}
```

# CSS syntax

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**Selector {property: value;}**  
**p {font-size: 12px;}**

# CSS syntax

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**Selector {property: value;}**  
**span {color: red;}**

# CSS syntax

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## HTML vs CSS for background color

HTML:

```
<body bgcolor="#FF0000">
```

CSS:

```
body {background-color: #FF0000;}
```

# Setting up a stylesheet

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There are three ways of setting up a CSS stylesheet

**Inline styles :** Styles are placed directly next to each element in the HTML

**Internal stylesheet :** A stylesheet is placed in the HEAD of the HTML document.

**External stylesheet :** The stylesheet exists as its own document and is linked to the HTML doc. *This is the best method.*

# Inline styles

```
<html>

  <head>
    <title>CSS Sandbox</title>
  </head>

  <body>

    <p style="font-size:16px;color:blue;">Some text</p>

  </body>

</html>
```

# Internal stylesheet

```
<html>
  <head>
    <title>CSS Sandbox</title>

    <style type="text/css">

      p {
        font-size:16px;
        color:blue;
      }

    </style>

  </head>
  <body>

    <p>Some text</p>

  </body>
</html>
```



# External stylesheet

## index.html

```
<html>

  <head>
    <title>CSS Sandbox</title>

    <link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css"
href="style.css">

  </head>

  <body>

    <p>Some text</p>

  </body>

</html>
```

## style.css

```
p {
  font-size:16px;
  color:blue;
}
```

# Select an element

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**You can select HTML Elements directly with your CSS.**

## **HTML**

```
<p>Hello World!</p>
```

## **CSS**

```
p {  
  font-size: 18px;  
  color: red;  
}
```

Next week we will learn to select elements using IDs and Classes.

## Select an HTML element through it's tag

```
<head>
  <title>CSS Sandbox</title>

  <style type="text/css">
    p {
      font-size:16px;
      color:blue;
    }
  </style>

</head>

<body>

  <p>Some text</p>

</body>
```

## Select an HTML element through it's tag

```
<head>
  <title>CSS Sandbox</title>

  <style type="text/css">
    div {
      color:blue;
      background-color:grey;
    }
  </style>

</head>

<body>

  <div>Hello World!</div>

</body>
```

## Select an HTML element through it's tag

```
<head>
  <title>CSS Sandbox</title>

  <style type="text/css">
    h1 {
      font-size:36px;
      color:purple;
    }
  </style>

</head>

<body>

  <div>
    <h1>Hello World!</h1>
  </div>

</body>
```

```
<head>
  <title>CSS Sandbox</title>

  <style type="text/css">
    h1 {
      font-size:24px;
      color:green;
    }

    p {
      font-size:12px;
      color:blue;
    }
  </style>

</head>

<body>

  <h1>A Hedline</h1>
  <p>Some text</p>

</body>
```

# Color

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The “**color**” property changes the text color. Use color name or hexadecimal code.

**color:red;**

**color:#FF0000;**

**color: rgb(255, 0, 0);**

Try this [Hex Color Codes tool](#) or use Adobe Photoshop

# Pairs

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**Each property can have one or more comma-separated value.**

```
font: italic, 12pt, sans-serif;  
font-family: arial, sans-serif;
```



# Font-size

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**Use pixels or ems.** Ems are relative to the text around them, responsive and more user friendly. Pixels are easier to understand.

```
font-size:12px;
```

```
font-size:16px;
```

```
font-size:1.5em;
```

```
font-size:1em;
```

# Font-weight

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**Specific thickness of the font.** The value can be “normal” “bold” “bolder” or a number from 100 - 900.

font-weight:normal;

font-weight:bold;

font-weight:100;

font-weight:800;

# Font-family

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**Specify a specific font (or several) and a generic family name.** The font-family property should hold several font names as a "fallback" system.

font-family:helvetica, sans-serif;

font-family:helvetica, arial, sans-serif;

font-family: georgia, serif;

**More info from W3Schools**

# Web safe fonts

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Here are some common fonts that are generally considered “web-safe”

## **Serif:**

Georgia

Times New Roman

## **Sans-serif:**

Arial

Courier New

Verdana

# Google fonts

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You can embed Google fonts into your web page for a lot more choices.

Google fonts

# Text styles

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## **Text property examples:**

color

line-height

text-align

## **Font property examples:**

font-family

font-size

font-style

# Text styles

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```
p {  
  color: red;  
  line-height: 120%  
  text-align: left;  
  font-family: arial, sans-serif;  
  font-size: 12px;  
  font-style: italic;  
}
```

# Link styles

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A link has four states that can be targeted with CSS

```
a {  
    text-decoration: none;  
}  
  
a:link {  
    text-decoration: none;  
    color: #000000;  
}  
  
a:visited {  
    text-decoration: none;  
    color: #000000;  
}  
  
a:hover {  
    text-decoration: underline;  
}
```



# Quick review

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- Set up a stylesheet
- Target an element
- Write a style