HTML class Attribute

The HTML class attribute is used to specify a class for an HTML element.

Multiple HTML elements can share the same class.

Tip: The class attribute can be used on any HTML element.

Note: The class name is case sensitive!

## Using The class Attribute

The class attribute is often used to point to a class name in a style sheet. It can also be used by a JavaScript to access and manipulate elements with the specific class name.

In the following example we have three <div> elements with a class attribute with the value of "city". All of the three <div> elements will be styled equally according to the .city style definition in the head section:

<!DOCTYPE html>

<html>

<head>

<style>

.city {

background-color: tomato;

color: white;

border: 2px solid black;

margin: 20px;

padding: 20px;

}

</style>

</head>

<body>

<div class="city">

<h2>London</h2>

<p>London is the capital of England.</p>

</div>

<div class="city">

<h2>Paris</h2>

<p>Paris is the capital of France.</p>

</div>

<div class="city">

<h2>Tokyo</h2>

<p>Tokyo is the capital of Japan.</p>

</div>

</body>

</html>

In the following example we have two <span> elements with a class attribute with the value of "note". Both <span> elements will be styled equally according to the .note style definition in the head section:

<!DOCTYPE html>  
<html>  
<head>  
<style>  
.note {  
  font-size: 120%;  
  color: red;  
}  
</style>  
</head>  
<body>  
  
<h1>My <span class="note">Important</span> Heading</h1>  
<p>This is some <span class="note">important</span> text.</p>  
  
</body>  
</html>

## The Syntax For Class

To create a class; write a period (.) character, followed by a class name. Then, define the CSS properties within curly braces {}:

<!DOCTYPE html>  
<html>  
<head>  
<style>  
.city {  
  background-color: tomato;  
  color: white;  
  padding: 10px;  
}  
</style>  
</head>  
<body>  
  
<h2 class="city">London</h2>  
<p>London is the capital of England.</p>  
  
<h2 class="city">Paris</h2>  
<p>Paris is the capital of France.</p>  
  
<h2 class="city">Tokyo</h2>  
<p>Tokyo is the capital of Japan.</p>  
  
</body>  
</html>

## Multiple Classes

HTML elements can belong to more than one class.

To define multiple classes, separate the class names with a space, e.g. <div class="city main">. The element will be styled according to all the classes specified.

In the following example, the first <h2> element belongs to both the city class and also to the main class, and will get the CSS styles from both of the classes:

<!DOCTYPE html>

<html>

<head>

<style>

.city {

background-color: tomato;

color: white;

padding: 10px;

}

.main {

text-align: center;

}

</style>

</head>

<body>

<h2>Multiple Classes</h2>

<p>Here, all three h2 elements belongs to the "city" class. In addition, London also belongs to the "main" class, which center-aligns the text.</p>

<h2 class="city main">London</h2>

<h2 class="city">Paris</h2>

<h2 class="city">Tokyo</h2>

</body>

</html>

## Different Elements Can Share Same Class

Different HTML elements can point to the same class name.

In the following example, both <h2> and <p> points to the "city" class and will share the same style:

<!DOCTYPE html>

<html>

<head>

<style>

.city {

background-color: tomato;

color: white;

padding: 10px;

}

</style>

</head>

<body>

<h2>Different Elements Can Share Same Class</h2>

<p>Even if the two elements do not have the same tag name, they can both point to the same class, and get the same CSS styling:</p>

<h2 class="city">Paris</h2>

<p class="city">Paris is the capital of France.</p>

</body>

</html>

## Use of The class Attribute in JavaScript

The class name can also be used by JavaScript to perform certain tasks for specific elements.

JavaScript can access elements with a specific class name with the getElementsByClassName() method:

<!DOCTYPE html>

<html>

<body>

<h2>Use of The class Attribute in JavaScript</h2>

<p>Click the button to hide all elements with class name "city":</p>

<button onclick="myFunction()">Hide elements</button>

<h2 class="city">London</h2>

<p>London is the capital of England.</p>

<h2 class="city">Paris</h2>

<p>Paris is the capital of France.</p>

<h2 class="city">Tokyo</h2>

<p>Tokyo is the capital of Japan.</p>

<script>

function myFunction() {

var x = document.getElementsByClassName("city");

for (var i = 0; i < x.length; i++) {

x[i].style.display = "none";

}

}

</script>

</body>

</html>

## Chapter Summary

* The HTML class attribute specifies one or more class names for an element
* Classes are used by CSS and JavaScript to select and access specific elements
* The class attribute can be used on any HTML element
* The class name is case sensitive
* Different HTML elements can point to the same class name
* JavaScript can access elements with a specific class name with the getElementsByClassName() method