CSS Step-by-Step Guide for Beginners

This guide will help you understand the basics of CSS and how to style a webpage like the Sushi Recipe example.

1. What is CSS?

CSS (Cascading Style Sheets) is a language used to style HTML elements. It changes how your webpage looks, including colors, fonts, sizes, and layouts.

A basic CSS file looks like this:

```css
body {
  background-color: lightblue;
  font-family: Arial, sans-serif;
  color: black;
}
```

2. How to Link CSS to HTML

To apply CSS styles to an HTML page, use the `<link>` tag inside the `<head>` section of your HTML file:

```html
<link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="css/superstyle.css">
```

- **rel="stylesheet"**: Indicates the file is a stylesheet.
- **type="text/css"**: Specifies the file type (CSS).
- **href**: The path to your CSS file.

3. Basic CSS Syntax

CSS is written as rules made up of:

1. **Selector**: The HTML element to style (e.g., `body`, `h1`, or `.class-name`).
2. **Property**: What you want to style (e.g., `color`, `font-size`).
3. **Value**: The style setting (e.g., `red`, `16px`).

```css
selector {
  property: value;
```

```
}
```

Example:

```
h1 {
  color: blue;
  font-size: 36px;
}
```

4. Styling the `<body>` Tag

The `<body>` tag controls the general style of the webpage. Here's how to add:

- **Font**: Choose a font family and size.
- **Margins**: Add space around the content.
- **Text Alignment**: Align text (left, right, center, justify).

```
body {
  font-family: Verdana, Geneva, Tahoma, sans-serif;
  font-size: 16px;
  margin-top: 50px;
  margin-left: 200px;
  margin-right: 200px;
  text-align: justify;
}
```

5. Styling a `<div>` Element

Use a `<div>` with a class (e.g., `class="content"`) to create a styled section. Here's how to:

- Add a **background color**.
- Add **padding** (space inside the border).
- Add a **border**.

```
div.content {
  background-color: #FFF5EE;
  padding: 30px;
  border: 2px solid #dcdcdc;
}
```

6. Styling Headings (`<h1>`, `<h2>`, `<h3>`)

Headings often have unique styles for emphasis:

- **Font Size**: Controls the text size.
- **Color**: Sets the text color.
- **Borders**: Adds a line above, below, or beside the heading.

```css
h1 {
  font-size: 36px;
  color: steelblue;
  border-bottom: 3px solid steelblue;
}

h2 {
  font-size: 28px;
  color: #696969;
  border-left: 7px solid steelblue;
  padding-left: 10px;
}

h3 {
  font-style: italic;
  font-size: 20px;
  color: steelblue;
  font-family: 'Times New Roman', Times, serif;
}
```

7. Styling Paragraphs (`<p>`)

Paragraphs can be styled for readability:

- **Text Indent**: Adds space at the beginning of the paragraph.
- **Font Size**: Sets the size of the text.

```css
p {
  text-indent: 20px;
  font-size: 16px;
}
```

8. Styling Blockquotes (`<blockquote>`)

Blockquotes are styled for emphasis:

- **Text Alignment**: Centers the text.
- **Font Style**: Italicizes and bolds the text.
- **Borders**: Adds dotted lines above and below.

```css
blockquote {
  text-align: center;
  font-family: 'Times New Roman', Times, serif;
  font-style: italic;
  font-weight: bold;
  font-size: 28px;
  color: steelblue;
  border-top: 5px dotted steelblue;
  padding-top: 5px;
  border-bottom: 5px dotted steelblue;
  padding-bottom: 5px;
}
```

9. Styling Images (`<img>`)

Images can be styled with borders and padding:

```css
img {
  border: 2px solid steelblue;
  padding: 5px;
}
```

To align images:

- Use **float** to position them on the left or right.
- Add **margins** to create space around them.

```css
img.right-pic {
  float: right;
  margin-left: 10px;
}

img.left-pic {
  float: left;
  margin-right: 10px;
}
```

10. Organizing Your Styles

Place your CSS rules in a `.css` file (e.g., `superstyle.css`) and save it in the `css/` folder of your project.

11. How to Test Your CSS

1. Write and save your CSS file.
2. Open the linked HTML file in your browser.
3. Refresh the page after making changes to see the updated styles.