CSS Basics: Understanding the Fundamentals of Styling Web Pages

What is CSS

CSS, short for **Cascading Style Sheet,** is a style sheet language used for describing the presentation of a document written in a markup language such as HTML. CSS is a style sheet language that gives color and beauty to an HTML page. Its essence is to make your website beautiful. Just as we have <> tags for HTML, in CSS we have {} braces.

How can you style a website using CSS?

There are 3 ways to style a page or site using CSS these are;

- Inline Styling: Inline CSS is written for a specific element in the HTML document.
- Internal Styling : Internal CSS is specified at the beginning of an HTML document.
- External styling : External CSS is a file that HTML files will link to.
- Inline styling: this is styling which is done in an html element. Let's say we created an html file called basic.html and inside this file we created a paragraph, we can then use inline styling to style that paragraph.

For Example:

```
basic.html

<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
<style>
p {
  color: red;
  text-align: center;
}
</style>
</head>
<body>

<p>Hello World!</p>
<p>These paragraphs are styled with CSS.
</p>

</body>
</html>
```
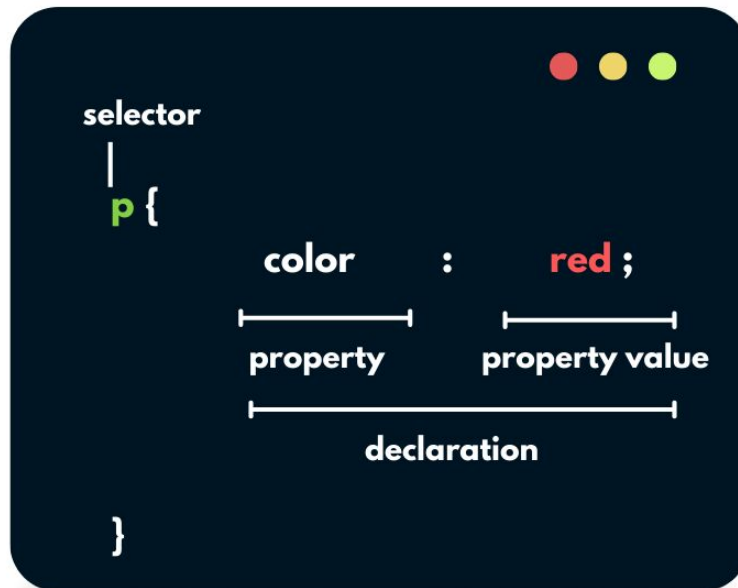
Let's dissect the CSS code for red paragraph text to understand how it works:

The whole structure is called a ruleset. (The term ruleset is often referred to as just rule.) Note the names of the individual parts:

Selector

This is the HTML element name at the start of the ruleset. It defines the element(s) to be styled (in this example, <p> elements). To style a different element, change the selector.

Declaration

This is a single rule like color: red;. It specifies which of the element's properties you want to style
.
Properties

These are ways in which you can style an HTML element. (In this example, color is a property of the <p> elements.) In CSS, you choose which properties you want to affect in the rule.

Property value

There is the property value to the right of the property after the colon. This chooses one out of many possible appearances for a given property. (For example, there are many color values in addition to red.)

External Styling: External CSS is a file that HTML files will link to.

```html
<!doctype html>
<html lang="en">
  <head>
    <meta charset="utf-8" />
    <title>Getting started with CSS</title>
  </head>

  <body>
    <h1>I am a level one heading</h1>

    <p>
      This is a paragraph of text. In the text is a
      <span>span element</span> and also a
      <a href="https://example.com">link</a>.
    </p>

    <p>
      This is the second paragraph. It contains an
<em>emphasized</em> element.
    </p>

    <ul>
      <li>Item <span>one</span></li>
      <li>Item two</li>
      <li>Item <em>three</em></li>
    </ul>
  </body>
</html>
```

Adding CSS to our document

The very first thing we need to do is to tell the HTML document that we have some CSS rules we want it to use. There are three different ways to apply CSS to an HTML document that you'll commonly come across, however, for now, we will look at the most usual and useful way of doing so — linking CSS from the head of your document.

Create a file in the same folder as your HTML document and save it as styles.css.

The .css extension shows that this is a CSS file.

To link styles.css to index.html, add the following line somewhere inside the <head> of the HTML document:

```html
HTML
<link rel="stylesheet" href="styles.css" />
```

This <link> element tells the browser that we have a stylesheet, using the rel attribute, and the location of that stylesheet as the value of the href attribute. You can test that the CSS works by adding a rule to styles.css. Using your code editor, add the following to your CSS file:

```css
CSS
h1 {
    color: red;
}
```

Save your HTML and CSS files and reload the page in a web browser. The level one heading at the top of the document should now be red.