

# CSS Selectors

Theory

Practice

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## Theory

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A **selector** points to an element or group of elements to which styles will be applied.

CSS technology does not limit you to using only a single selector: you can use multiple! There are several basic types that allow us to flexibly change the appearance of web pages. In this topic, you will learn about some of these basic CSS selectors.

## §1. CSS element Selector

**CSS element Selectors** are the most elementary and easy-to-use selectors. Their essence is the following: you use the name of the HTML element to which you want to apply the style as the selector.

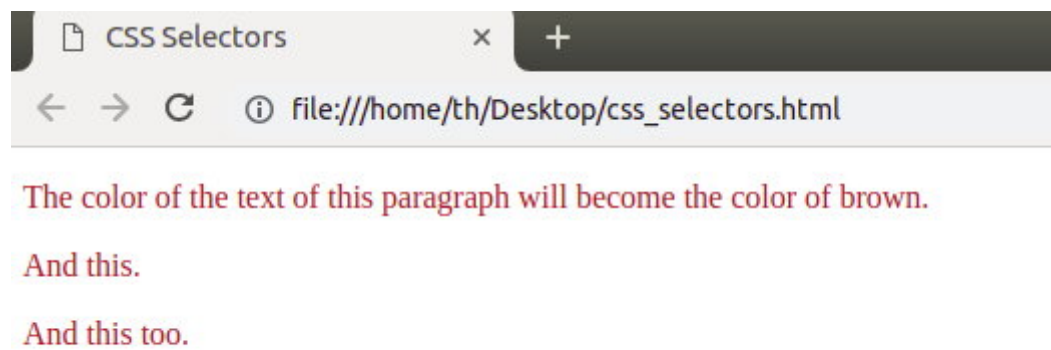
At the same time, if there are several elements in the layout of your web page indicated by this tag, then styles will be applied to all of them. Let's see what it looks like in the following example:

```
p {
  color: brown;
}
```

This CSS code tells you that the text in all paragraphs will be brown-colored. We apply it to an HTML document that contains the following lines:

```
<p>The color of the text of this paragraph will become the color of brown.
</p>
<p>And this.</p>
<p>And this too.</p>
```

The resulting page will look like this:



As you can see, the style is applied to all HTML elements `p` on the web page.

## §2. CSS id Selector

**CSS id Selector** is used if you need to work with a specific element when there are many similar elements. It takes its name from the value of the `id` attribute of the HTML tag you need. A symbol `#` is placed in front of it so that the browser understands that this is an id selector.

For example, let's select the first paragraph on the page and increase its font. Here's the CSS code:

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✓ [Basic syntax](#) ✓✓ [HTML attributes id and class](#) ✓

### 10 dependent topics

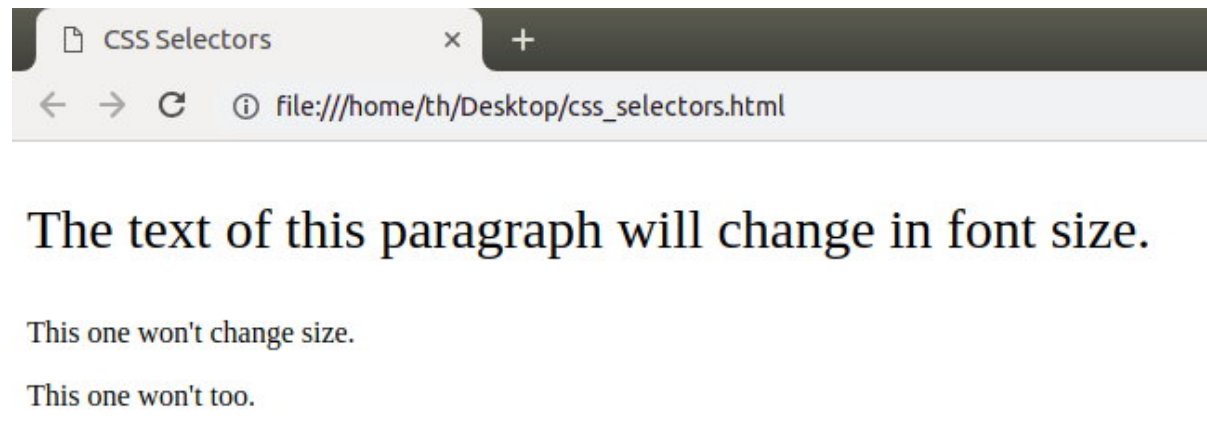
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```
#big {
  font-size: 30px;
}
```

And this is the HTML code:

```
<p id="big">The text of this paragraph will change in font size.
</p>
<p>This one won't change size.</p>
<p>This one won't either.</p>
```

In the browser, our page will look like this:



The styles were applied only to the HTML tag with the `id` attribute.

### §3. CSS class Selector

**CSS class Selector** is useful when you need to give a lot of different elements the same look. The name of the selector is taken from the value of the `class` attribute of the desired HTML tag. A dot `.` is placed in front of it so that the browser understands that this is a class selector.

Let's consider an example: say we want to apply the same background color (blue) to several different elements.

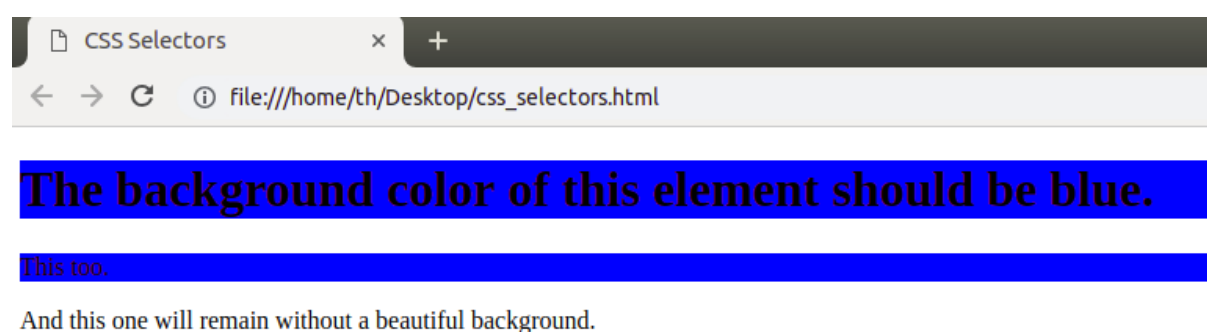
Here's how the CSS code will look like:

```
.blue {
  background-color: blue;
}
```

And here's an example of the HTML code:

```
<h1 class="blue">The background color of this element should be blue.
</h1>
<p class="blue">This too.</p>
<p>And this one will remain without a beautiful background.</p>
```

In the browser, our page will look like this:



The styles were applied only to the HTML tags with the `class` attribute.

As you can see, the selectors open up a variety of possibilities to design your web page content. We can honestly say that selectors are among the most important elements of CSS.

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