In CSS, there are three ways to apply styles to HTML elements: inline, internal, and external CSS.

1. Inline CSS: Inline CSS is applied directly to the HTML element using the "style" attribute. Inline styles override any other styles that are applied to the element. For example:

<p style="color: red;">This text will be red.</p>

1. Internal CSS: Internal CSS is defined in the head section of an HTML document using the "style" tag. Internal styles apply to all elements within the HTML document. For example:

<head>

<style>

p {

color: red;

}

</style>

</head>

<body>

<p>This text will be red.</p>

</body>

1. External CSS: External CSS is defined in a separate CSS file and linked to the HTML document using the "link" tag. External styles can be applied to multiple HTML documents, making it easy to maintain consistent styles across a website. For example:

<head>

<link rel="stylesheet" href="styles.css">

</head>

<body>

<p class="red-text">This text will be red.</p>

</body>

External CSS is the most commonly used method because it separates the presentation layer (CSS) from the content layer (HTML), making it easier to maintain and update a website.