

Getting Started

Start by looking at the example of the following HTML document:

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en-us">
<head>
<meta charset="utf-8">
<title>Hello...</title>
<style>
#mainContent {
    font-family: Arial, "Helvetica Neue", sans-serif;
    font-size: xx-large;
    font-weight: bold;
    background-color: #CC0000;
    border-radius: 4px;
    padding: 10px;
    text-align: center;
}

p {
    font-family: Georgia, serif;
    font-size: xx-large;
    font-weight: bold;
    color: #FFFF00;
}

</style>
</head>
<body>
<div id="mainContent">
<p>What does Marcellus Wallace look like?</p>
</div>
</body>
</html>
```

The contents that you see are defined in plain HTML. The look of this example (the rounded corners, the colors, the font used, and text size) is entirely defined using CSS syntax.

CSS Styles

Like I mentioned earlier, the look of your HTML document is largely defined by what are known as CSS styles. You can spot them in one of several ways. One common way is within style tags placed as used in our example:

```
<style>
#mainContent {
    font-family: Arial, "Helvetica Neue", sans-serif;
    font-size: xx-large;
    font-weight: bold;
    background-color: #CC0000;
    border-radius: 4px;
    padding: 10px;
    text-align: center;
}

p {
    font-family: Georgia, serif;
    font-size: xx-large;
    font-weight: bold;
    color: #FFFF00;
}
</style>
```

There are other ways you can find styles in your document, but we won't concern ourselves with them right now. What is important is what is contained inside them - the CSS rules.

Examining a CSS Rule

The main components of a CSS style are the individual rules, and it is these rules that have all the impact on how the contents of your documents look.

The following is an example of a rule set:

```
p {
    font-family: Georgia, serif;
    font-size: xx-large;
    font-weight: bold;
    color: #FFFF00;
}
```

A rule is made up of two components - the selector and the declaration.

Selector

The selector specifies what elements this particular rule will apply to. In the case of this rule, our selector is the p tag:

```
p {  
  font-family: Georgia, serif;  
  font-size: xx-large;  
  font-weight: bold;  
  color: #FFFF00;  
}
```

What this means is that this rule will apply to any element whose type is p. Selectors can be quite simple as what you see here, or they can be quite elaborate and involve combinations of HTML elements, class names, and ID values. A separate tutorial will examine the variety of selectors in greater detail.

Declaration

The declaration is everything after the brackets where you describe what actually happens to the selected elements hand-picked by your selector:

```
p {  
  font-family: Georgia, serif;  
  font-size: xx-large;  
  font-weight: bold;  
  color: #FFFF00;  
}
```

A declaration can be made up of one or more CSS properties-value pairs. The declaration starts with a property (font, margin, background, etc.) followed by a colon (:), then the value (Arial, 10px, #fff) closing with a semicolon also known as a 'terminator' (;).

```
p {  
  font-family: Georgia, serif;  
  font-size: xx-large;  
  font-weight: bold;  
  color: #FFFF00;  
}
```

If you have multiple property-value pairs, which you will commonly have, you can place them either in separate lines or you can place them in a single line as well. CSS doesn't care as long as each property-value pair is separated by a semi-colon.

```
.font_sm, #content {  
  font-family: Georgia, serif;  
  font-size: xx-large;  
  font-weight: bold;  
  color: #FFFF00;  
}
```