

CSS Quick Reference

Syntax

Style Rules

Syntax	Description
selector { property: value; }	basic rule
selector { property: value; property: value; }	multiple styles
selector1, selector2 { property: value; }	applied to multiple selectors
selector1 selector2 { property: value; }	applied to selector2 contained in selector1
@media mediatype { selector { property: value; } }	applied only for specified mediatype (e.g., print)
/* comment */	comment

Selectors

Syntax	Description
element	all instances of a specific element (e.g., p)
element.class	all instances of a specific element with a specific class
.class	all instances of any element with a specific class
#id or element#id	an element with a specific id
element:pseudo-class	elements in a special state (e.g., a:link, a:visited, a:hover, a:active)
element:pseudo-element	special "pseudo" elements (e.g., p:first-letter, p:first-line)

Examples

Selector	CSS Example	HTML Example
element	p { ... }	<p>
element.class	p.warning { ... }	<p class="warning">
.class	.warning { ... }	<p class="warning">
#id or element#id	#warning1 { ... } or element#warning1 { ... }	<p id="warning1">
element:pseudo-class	a:hover { ... }	

Applying Styles

Syntax	Description
<tag style="property: value;">	In-line style
<style type="text/css"> selector { property: value; } </style>	Embedded style block (in document head)
<link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="stylesheet.css">	External style sheet

Properties

Text

Property	Description	Values	W3C
color	text color	color	CSS1
font-family	font family	<i>family-name</i> (comma-separated list)	CSS1
font-size	font size	<i>length</i> % xx-small x-small small medium large x-large xx-large smaller larger	CSS1
font-weight	font weight	normal bold	CSS1
font-style	font style	normal italic	CSS1
font-variant	font variant	normal small-caps	CSS1
text-decoration	text decoration	none underline overline line-through blink	CSS1
text-transform	text case	none capitalize uppercase lowercase	CSS1
text-align	horizontal alignment of text within an element	left right center justify	CSS1
text-indent	size of first line indent	<i>length</i> %	CSS1
line-height	line height (affects space between lines)	normal number <i>length</i> %	CSS1
letter-spacing	space between characters	normal <i>length</i>	CSS1
word-spacing	space between words	normal <i>length</i>	CSS1
white-space	how white space inside an element is handled	normal pre nowrap	CSS1

Lists

Property	Description	Values	W3C
list-style-type	type of bullet or number	none disc circle square decimal lower-roman upper-roman lower-alpha upper-alpha	CSS1
list-style-position	bullet/number position (when list items wrap)	inside outside	CSS1
list-style-image	image to be used as bullet	none <i>url</i>	CSS1
list-style	shorthand for all list-style settings	<i>list-style-type</i> <i>list-style-position</i> <i>list-style-image</i>	CSS1

Tables

Property	Description	Values	W3C
border-collapse	border model of a table	collapse separate	CSS2
border-spacing	cell spacing	<i>length</i>	CSS2
caption-side	position of the caption box relative to the table	top bottom left right	CSS2
table-layout	algorithm used for table layout	auto fixed	CSS2

Cursor

Property	Description	Values	W3C
cursor	appearance of mouse pointer	auto crosshair default pointer (hand) move text wait help n-resize s-resize e-resize w-resize ne-resize sw-resize nw-resize se-resize <i>url</i>	CSS2

Background

Property	Description	Values	W3C
background-color	background color	color transparent	CSS1
background-image	background image	none url	CSS1
background-repeat	if/how background image is repeated	no-repeat repeat repeat-x repeat-y	CSS1
background-attachment	whether background image scrolls with the page	scroll fixed	CSS1
background-position	position of background image	top/center/bottom left/center/right x-% y-% x-pixels y-pixels	CSS1

Border

Property	Description	Values	W3C
border-width	border width	length	CSS1
border-style	border style	none dashed dotted double groove inset outset solid	CSS1
border-color	border color	color	CSS1
border-top/right/bottom/left	individual settings for top, right, bottom, and left	border-top-width border-top-style border-top-color	CSS1

Margin & Padding

Property	Description	Values	W3C
margin	space between element border and parent/surrounding elements	auto length %	CSS1
margin-top/right/bottom/left	individual settings for top, right, bottom, and left	margin	CSS1
padding	space between element and element border	length %	CSS1
padding-top/right/bottom/left	individual settings for top, right, bottom, and left	padding	CSS1

Size

Property	Description	Values	W3C
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height	height	<i>length</i> %	CSS1
width	width	<i>length</i> %	CSS1

Position

Property	Description	Values	W3C
position	how the location of the element is determined relative to the page or surrounding elements	static relative absolute fixed	CSS2
top	distance from top edge of parent element	% <i>length</i>	CSS2
right	distance from right edge of parent element	% <i>length</i>	CSS2
bottom	distance from bottom edge of parent element	% <i>length</i>	CSS2
left	distance from left edge of parent element	% <i>length</i>	CSS2
float	if/how an element is floated relative to adjacent elements	left right none	CSS1
clear	sides of an element where floating elements are not allowed	left right both none	CSS1
overflow	if/how scroll bars are displayed when element content exceeds specified height and width	visible hidden scroll auto	CSS2
clip	shape of an element	<i>shape</i>	CSS2
vertical-align	vertical alignment of an element	baseline sub super top text-top middle bottom text-bottom <i>length</i> %	CSS1
z-index	z-axis or "stack" order of an element	<i>number</i>	CSS2

Display

Property	Description	Values	W3C
display	if/how element is displayed (elements with display: none do not take up space)	none inline block	CSS1

<code>visibility</code>	if element should be visible (elements with visibility: hidden do not take up space)	<code>visible</code> <code>hidden</code> <code>collapse</code>	CSS2
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Print

Property	Description	Values	W3C
<code>page-break-after</code>	page-breaking behavior after an element	<code>auto</code> <code>always</code> <code>avoid</code> <code>left</code> <code>right</code>	CSS2
<code>page-break-before</code>	page-breaking behavior before an element	<code>auto</code> <code>always</code> <code>avoid</code> <code>left</code> <code>right</code>	CSS2
<code>page-break-inside</code>	page-breaking behavior inside an element	<code>auto</code> <code>avoid</code>	CSS2

Units

Length

Unit	Description	Relative/Fixed
<code>%</code>	percentage (based on size of parent element or size of default font)	Relative
<code>em</code>	em units (based on the size of default font; roughly, the width of a capital letter "M")	Relative
<code>px</code>	pixels	Fixed
<code>pt</code>	points (roughly 1/72-inch when printed)	Fixed
<code>in/cm/mm</code>	inches/centimeters/millimeters	Fixed

Colors

Unit	Description
<code>color</code>	color name (e.g., <code>red</code> , <code>green</code> , <code>blue</code>)
<code>#rrggbb</code>	hexadecimal red/green/blue value (e.g., <code>#ff0000</code> , <code>#00ff00</code> , <code>#0000ff</code>)

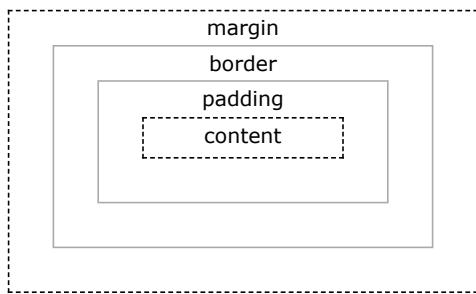
Media Types

Media Type	Description	Support
<code>all</code>	all media type devices	good
<code>screen</code>	typical computer screens	good
<code>print</code>	printers	good
<code>aural</code>	speech synthesizers	none
<code>braille</code>	refreshable braille displays	none
<code>embossed</code>	braille printers	none

handheld	small or handheld devices	some
projection	projected presentations, like slideshows	none
tty	media using a fixed-pitch character grid, like teletypes and terminals	none
tv	television screens	none

The Box Model

The CSS Box Model describes how block-level content is rendered (displayed) in a web browser. Each block-level element is displayed within a set of rectangular boxes, starting with a box for the content (text, image, etc) and surrounded by optional boxes for [padding](#), [border](#), and [margin](#); a [background](#) can be applied behind the content and padding areas:



The Box Model Problem

According to W3C standards, the [height](#) or [width](#) of an element is equal to the height or width of the content box alone; the width of [padding](#), [border](#), and [margin](#) are not included in the [height](#) or [width](#) value. However, Microsoft Internet Explorer 5 includes an element's [padding](#) and [border](#) when calculating [height](#) or [width](#):

- $\text{height}/\text{width} \text{ (W3C)} = \text{content}$
- $\text{height}/\text{width} \text{ (IE 5)} = \text{content} + \text{padding} + \text{border}$

There are two approaches to addressing this problem:

- avoid applying [padding](#) or [border](#) to elements that have [height](#) or [width](#) set
- use a "box model hack" to provide one [height](#) or [width](#) value for standards-compliant browsers and another to Internet Explorer 5 (see [Filters & Hacks](#) at the end of this document)

Browser Compatibility Filters & Hacks

Style Sheet Filters

The following technique can be used to hide entire style sheets from older browsers:

Hide from	Syntax
IE 4, Netscape 4, IE 5 Mac (and older)	<pre><style type="text/css"> @import 'filename.css'; </style></pre>

Style Rule Filters

The following techniques can be used to present specific style rules only to certain browsers:

Show to	Syntax
IE 5, 6, 7	<code>*property: value;</code>

Show to	Syntax
IE 5, 6	<code>_property: value;</code>
IE 5	<code>_property /**/: value;</code>
IE 6	<code>_prop\y: value;</code>
IE 7	<code>*prop\y /**/: value; (note: the \ may not precede letters a-f)</code>
Safari 3	<code>.className[class="CLASSNAME"] {property: value;}</code>

References:

- [W3C CSS2 Property Index](http://www.w3.org/TR/REC-CSS2/propidx.html) (<http://www.w3.org/TR/REC-CSS2/propidx.html>)
- [W3Schools CSS2 Reference](http://www.w3schools.com/css/css_reference.asp) (http://www.w3schools.com/css/css_reference.asp)
- [WDG CSS Properties](http://www.htmlhelp.com/reference/css/properties.html) (<http://www.htmlhelp.com/reference/css/properties.html>)
- [DevGuru CSS2 Index](http://www.devguru.com/Technologies/css/quickref/css_index.html) (http://www.devguru.com/Technologies/css/quickref/css_index.html)
- [Centricle CSS Filters](http://centricle.com/ref/css/filters) (<http://centricle.com/ref/css/filters>)