



Styling React Apps

Static & Dynamic Styling for Pretty Apps

- ▶ Styling with **Vanilla CSS**
- ▶ **Scoping** Styles with **CSS Modules**
- ▶ **CSS-in-JS** Styling with “**Styled Components**”
- ▶ Styling with **Tailwind CSS**
- ▶ Static & **Dynamic (Conditional)** Styling



This is not a CSS course

But you should know how to apply
CSS to your React components

Inline Styles: Advantages & Disadvantages



Advantages

- Quick & easy to add to JSX
- Styles only affect the element to which you add them
- Dynamic (conditional) styling is simple



Disadvantages

- You need to know CSS
- You need to style every element individually
- No separation between CSS & JSX code

Vanilla CSS: Advantages & Disadvantages



Advantages

CSS code is decoupled from JSX code

You write CSS code as you (maybe) know
and (maybe) love it

CSS code can be written by another
developer who needs only a minimal
amount of access to your JSX code



Disadvantages

You need to know CSS

CSS code is not scoped to components →
CSS rules may clash across components
(e.g., same CSS class name used in
different components for different
purposes)

CSS Modules

Vanilla CSS with file-specific scoping

CSS Modules: Advantages & Disadvantages



Advantages

CSS code is decoupled from JSX code

You write CSS code as you (maybe) know
and (maybe) love it

CSS code can be written by another
developer who needs only a minimal
amount of access to your JSX code

CSS classes are scoped to the component
(files) which import them → No CSS class
name clashes



Disadvantages

You need to know CSS

You may end up with many relatively
small CSS files in your project

Styled Components: Advantages & Disadvantages



Advantages

Quick & easy to add

You continue “thinking in React” (→ configurable style functions)

Styles are scoped to components → No CSS rule clashes



Disadvantages

You need to know CSS

No clear separation of React & CSS code

You end up with many relatively small “wrapper” components

Tailwind CSS: Advantages & Disadvantages



Advantages

You don't need to know (a lot about) CSS

Rapid development

No style clashes between components
since you don't define any CSS rules

Highly configurable & extensible



Disadvantages

Relatively long className values

Any style changes require editing JSX

You end up with many relatively small
“wrapper” components OR lots of copy &
pasting