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CSS Selector Reference

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CSS Selectors

In CSS, selectors are patterns used to select the element(s) you want to style.

Use our [CSS Selector Tester](#) to demonstrate the different selectors.

| Selector | Example | Example description |
|------------------------|---------------|---|
| <u><i>.class</i></u> | .intro | Selects all elements with class="intro" |
| <i>.class1.class2</i> | .name1.name2 | Selects all elements with both <i>name1</i> and <i>name2</i> set within its class attribute |
| <i>.class1 .class2</i> | .name1 .name2 | Selects all elements with <i>name2</i> that is a descendant of an element with <i>name1</i> |
| <u><i>#id</i></u> | #firstname | Selects the element with id="firstname" |
| <i>*</i> | * | Selects all elements |

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| <u><i>element</i></u> | p | Selects all <p> elements |
| <u><i>element.class</i></u> | p.intro | Selects all <p> elements with class="intro" |
| <u><i>element,element</i></u> | div, p | Selects all <div> elements and all <p> elements |
| <u><i>element element</i></u> | div p | Selects all <p> elements inside <div> elements |
| <u><i>element>element</i></u> | div > p | Selects all <p> elements where the parent is a <div> element |
| <u><i>element+element</i></u> | div + p | Selects the first <p> element that is placed immediately after <div> elements |
| <u><i>element1~element2</i></u> | p ~ ul | Selects every element that is preceded by a <p> element |
| [<u><i>attribute</i></u>] | [target] | Selects all elements with a target attribute |
| [<u><i>attribute=value</i></u>] | [target=_blank] | Selects all elements with target="_blank" |
| [<u><i>attribute~=value</i></u>] | [title~=flower] | Selects all elements with a title attribute containing the word "flower" |
| [<u><i>attribute =value</i></u>] | [lang =en] | Selects all elements with a lang attribute value equal to "en" or starting with "en-" |
| [<u><i>attribute^=value</i></u>] | a[href^="https"] | Selects every <a> element whose href attribute value begins with "https" |
| [<u><i>attribute\$=value</i></u>] | a[href\$=".pdf"] | Selects every <a> element whose href attribute value ends with ".pdf" |
| [<u><i>attribute*=value</i></u>] | a[href*="w3schools"] | Selects every <a> element whose href attribute value contains the substring "w3schools" |

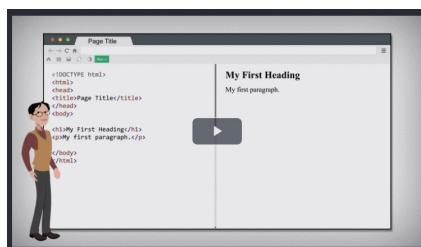
| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|---|
| <u>:active</u> | a:active | Selects the active link |
| <u>::after</u> | p::after | Insert something after the content of each <p> element |
| <u>::before</u> | p::before | Insert something before the content of each <p> element |
| <u>:checked</u> | input:checked | Selects every checked <input> element |
| <u>:default</u> | input:default | Selects the default <input> element |
| <u>:disabled</u> | input:disabled | Selects every disabled <input> element |
| <u>:empty</u> | p:empty | Selects every <p> element that has no children (including text nodes) |
| <u>:enabled</u> | input:enabled | Selects every enabled <input> element |
| <u>:first-child</u> | p:first-child | Selects every <p> element that is the first child of its parent |
| <u>::first-letter</u> | p::first-letter | Selects the first letter of every <p> element |
| <u>::first-line</u> | p::first-line | Selects the first line of every <p> element |
| <u>:first-of-type</u> | p:first-of-type | Selects every <p> element that is the first <p> element of its parent |
| <u>:focus</u> | input:focus | Selects the input element which has focus |
| <u>:fullscreen</u> | :fullscreen | Selects the element that is in full-screen mode |
| <u>:hover</u> | a:hover | Selects links on mouse over |
| <u>:in-range</u> | input:in-range | Selects input elements with a value within a specified range |

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|------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| <u>:indeterminate</u> | input:indeterminate | Selects input elements that are in an indeterminate state |
| <u>:invalid</u> | input:invalid | Selects all input elements with an invalid value |
| <u>:lang(<i>language</i>)</u> | p:lang(it) | Selects every <p> element with a lang attribute equal to "it" (Italian) |
| <u>:last-child</u> | p:last-child | Selects every <p> element that is the last child of its parent |
| <u>:last-of-type</u> | p:last-of-type | Selects every <p> element that is the last <p> element of its parent |
| <u>:link</u> | a:link | Selects all unvisited links |
| <u>::marker</u> | ::marker | Selects the markers of list items |
| <u>:not(<i>selector</i>)</u> | :not(p) | Selects every element that is not a <p> element |
| <u>:nth-child(<i>n</i>)</u> | p:nth-child(2) | Selects every <p> element that is the second child of its parent |
| <u>:nth-last-child(<i>n</i>)</u> | p:nth-last-child(2) | Selects every <p> element that is the second child of its parent, counting from the last child |
| <u>:nth-last-of-type(<i>n</i>)</u> | p:nth-last-of-type(2) | Selects every <p> element that is the second <p> element of its parent, counting from the last child |
| <u>:nth-of-type(<i>n</i>)</u> | p:nth-of-type(2) | Selects every <p> element that is the second <p> element of its parent |
| <u>:only-of-type</u> | p:only-of-type | Selects every <p> element that is the only <p> element of its parent |
| <u>:only-child</u> | p:only-child | Selects every <p> element that is the only child of its parent |

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|----------------------|--------------------|---|
| <u>:optional</u> | input:optional | Selects input elements with no "required" attribute |
| <u>:out-of-range</u> | input:out-of-range | Selects input elements with a value outside a specified range |
| <u>::placeholder</u> | input::placeholder | Selects input elements with the "placeholder" attribute specified |
| <u>:read-only</u> | input:read-only | Selects input elements with the "readonly" attribute specified |
| <u>:read-write</u> | input:read-write | Selects input elements with the "readonly" attribute NOT specified |
| <u>:required</u> | input:required | Selects input elements with the "required" attribute specified |
| <u>:root</u> | :root | Selects the document's root element |
| <u>::selection</u> | ::selection | Selects the portion of an element that is selected by a user |
| <u>:target</u> | #news:target | Selects the current active #news element (clicked on a URL containing that anchor name) |
| <u>:valid</u> | input:valid | Selects all input elements with a valid value |
| <u>:visited</u> | a:visited | Selects all visited links |

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