TLE / ICT 9 SECOND QUARTER

LESSON 5

CSS Selectors

CSS selectors are used to "find" or "select" the HTML elements that you want to style.

CSS selectors are divided into 6 types:
1. Class selector
2. Element selector or Tag selector
3. ID selector
4. Universal selector
5. Group selector
6. Attribute selector

Element Selector

- selects HTML elements (p, div, h1, etc.) and applies CSS to them.

Example css code:

p {line-height: 1.5; font-size: 16px;}

Element Selector

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head><title>CSS selectors</title>
<link rel="stylesheet" href="style.css"
type="text/css">
</head>
<body>
<h1>Heading</h1>
<p> This is a paragraph</p>
</body>
</html>
```

```css
h1 {color:red;}
p{color:orange;}
```

Browser Output

CSS selectors

Heading

This is a paragraph.

ID Selector

- is a style applied to one element in a page.
- normally used once, usually in a page title or the navigation part of the page.
- defined by "#" and uses id attribute of the HTML element.
- ID selector selects the HTML element with a unique identifier (id) and adds CSS to it.
- it is not advisable to start an id selector with a number because some browsers do not support it.
- the ID selector is unique and selects one unique element

ID Selector

Example html code:
```
<div id="header">Welcome to my website</div>
```

Example css code:
```
#header {background-color: navy; color: white;}
```

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head><title>CSS selectors</title>
<link rel="stylesheet" href="style.css"
type="text/css">
</head>
<body>
<p>First paragraph</p>
<p id="second-paragraph">Second
paragraph</p>
<p>Third paragraph</p>
</body>
</html>
```

#second-
paragraph{color:red;}

Browser Output

CSS selectors ›

First Paragraph

Second Paragraph

Third Paragraph

Universal Selector

The universal selector selects every single HTML element on the page. It is written using the asterisk (*) character .

Example css code:
* {margin: 0; padding: 0; box-sizing: border-box;}

HTML code

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
<title>CSS selectors</title>
<link rel="stylesheet"
href="style.css" type="text/css">
</head>
<body>
<h1>Heading</h1>
<p>First Paragraph</p>
<p>Second Paragraph</p>
</body>
</html>
```

CSS code

```
* {color:red;}
```

Browser Output

CSS selectors ›

Heading

First Paragraph

Second Paragraph

In the given example, the universal selector * selects all the HTML elements and applies the *red* color.

Note: The universal selector is also referred to as the wildcard selector.

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Group Selector

The group selector allows you to select multiple elements and apply the same style to all of them.

Example css code:

h1, h2, h3 {color: darkgreen; text-align: center;}

HTML code

```html
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
<title>CSS selectors</title>
<link rel="stylesheet"
href="style.css" type="text/css">
</head>
<body>
<h1>Heading</h1>
<p>First Paragraph</p>
</body>
</html>
```

CSS code

```css
h1,p
{color:blue;}
```

Browser Output

CSS selectors ›

Heading

This is a paragraph.

Here, the code applies CSS styling to all *<h1>* and *<p>* elements. Notice that we have

used , to separate the HTML elements.

Attribute Selector

The attribute selector selects elements based on specific attribute values. The syntax for the attribute selector is:
Element[attribute]

Example css code:

input[type="text"] {border: 1px solid gray;}
input[type="submit"] {background-color: green; color: white;}

HTML code

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
<title>CSS selectors</title>
<link rel="stylesheet" href="style.css"
type="text/css">
</head>
<body>
<p class="first">This is the first
paragraph.</p>
<p>This paragraph doesn't have a class
attribute.</p>
<p class="third">This is the third
paragraph.</p>
<p class="fourth">This is a fourth
paragraph.</p>
</body>
</html>
```

CSS code

```
p[class] {background-
color:orange;}
p[class="third"]
{color:blue;}
```

Browser Output

In the given example, the attribute selector

- *p[class]* selects all *p* elements having the *class* attribute and styles their background color to orange
- *p[class="third"]* selects all *p* elements with the .*third* class name and styles their color to *blue*.

Note: This selector only selects an element if a specified given attribute exists.

When to use class selector:

Use a class selector when you want to apply the same style to multiple elements or when elements share a common category or purpose. Use class when styling many elements that share the same style — even if they have different tags.

When to use ID selector:

Use an ID selector when styling a unique element that appears only once on a page (like a header, footer, or main section).

When to use element/tag selector:

Use an element selector to style all occurrences of a specific HTML tag (like all <p> or <h1>).

When to use universal selector:

Use the universal selector when you want to style all elements on the page — for example, to reset margins, padding, or box-sizing.

When to use group selector:

Use a group selector when different elements share the same styling — to avoid repeating code.

When to use attribute selector:

Use an attribute selector when you want to style elements based on their HTML attributes or attribute