

Styling JSX elements

You've observed that JSX is incredibly versatile, and can accept a combination of JavaScript, HTML and CSS. In this reading, you'll learn some approaches for styling JSX elements and doing so in a way that achieves both a functional and visual aspect within an app.

There are various ways to style JSX elements.

Probably the simplest way to do this is using the `link` HTML element in the head of the `index.html` file in which your React app will mount.

The `href` attribute loads some CSS styles, probably with some CSS classes, and then, inside the function component's declarations, you can access those CSS classes using the `className` attribute.

```
1  function Promo(props) {
2    return (
3      <div className="promo-section">
4        <div>
5          <h1>{props.heading}</h1>
6        </div>
7        <div>
8          <h2>{props.promoSubHeading}</h2>
9        </div>
10     </div>
11   );
12 }
```

In CSS:

```
1  .promo-section {
2    font-weight: bold;
3    line-height: 20px;
4  }
```

Another way to add CSS styles to components is using inline styles.

The syntax of inline styles in JSX is a bit custom.

Consider a starting `Promo` component, containing code that you encountered earlier:

```
1  function Promo(props) {
2    return (
3      <div className="promo-section">
4        <div>
5          <h1>{props.heading}</h1>
6        </div>
7        <div>
8          <h2>{props.promoSubHeading}</h2>
9        </div>
10     </div>
11   );
12 }
```

```

11   });
12 }
13
14 export default Promo;

```

Now you can add some inline styles to it:

```

1  function Promo(props) {
2    return (
3      <div className="promo-section">
4        <div>
5          <h1 style={{color:"tomato", fontSize:"40px", fontWeight:"bold"}}>
6            {props.heading}
7          </h1>
8        </div>
9        <div>
10         <h2>{props.promoSubHeading}</h2>
11       </div>
12     </div>
13   );
14 }
15
16 export default Promo;

```

You can start updating the **Promo** component by adding the JavaScript expression syntax:

```

1  <h1 style={}>

```

As explained previously, this means that whatever code you add inside these opening and closing curly braces is to be parsed as regular JavaScript. Now let's add a **style object literal** inside of these curly braces:

```

1  <h1 style={{color:"tomato",fontSize:"40px"}}>

```

You can then re-write this object literal:

```

1  {
2    color: "tomato",
3    fontSize: "40px"
4  }

```

So, there's nothing special about this object, except for the fact that you've inlined it and placed it inside a pair of curly braces. Additionally, since it's just JavaScript, those CSS properties that would be hyphenated in plain CSS, such as, for example, **font-size: 40px**, become camelCased, and the value is a string, making it look like this:

fontSize: "40px".

Besides inlining a *style object literal*, you can also save it in a variable, and then use that variable instead of passing an

object literal.

That gives you an updated **Promo** component, with the styles object saved as a JavaScript variable:

```
1  function Promo(props) {
2
3  const styles = {
4    color: "tomato",
5    fontSize: "40px"
6  }
7
8  return (
9    <div className="promo-section">
10      <div>
11        <h1 style={styles}>
12          {props.heading}
13        </h1>
14      </div>
15      <div>
16        <h2>{props.promoSubHeading}</h2>
17      </div>
18    </div>
19  );
20 }
```

Using this approach makes your components more self-contained, because they come with their own styles built-in, but it also makes them a bit harder to maintain.