

Dark Mode in Tailwind CSS v4

What is Dark Mode?

Dark mode is a design style that uses a darker color palette for UI elements. Tailwind makes it easy to implement dark themes using utility classes prefixed with `dark:`.

◆ 1. Write Basic Code (Light Mode)

Here's a simple HTML section in light mode:

```
<div class="bg-white text-black p-6 rounded shadow-md">
  <h1 class="text-xl font-bold">Welcome to Light Mode</h1>
  <p>This is a basic container in light mode.</p>
</div>
```

◆ 2. Update This Code for Dark Mode

Tailwind uses class-based dark mode by default in v4. To use it, you simply add the `dark:` prefix to your classes and set a `class="dark"` on the parent.

✓ Example with Light and Dark Mode:

```
<!-- Manually toggle dark mode by adding 'dark' class on <html> or <body> -->
<body class="dark:bg-gray-900 dark:text-white bg-white text-black p-10">
  <div class="bg-white dark:bg-gray-800 text-black dark:text-white p-6 rounded shadow-md">
    <h1 class="text-xl font-bold">Dark Mode Enabled</h1>
    <p>This block supports light and dark themes.</p>
  </div>
</body>
```

◆ 3. Test Dark Mode with Operating System Mode

Tailwind v4 also supports media-query-based dark mode using your operating system preference.

✂ To enable this, set the darkMode to 'media' (only needed if using a config file, which is optional in v4).

✅ With no config file — Tailwind v4 handles it automatically:

Use dark: classes and test by switching your OS to dark mode.

```
<!-- Just add dark classes, Tailwind v4 auto-detects OS mode -->
```

```
<div class="bg-white dark:bg-black text-black dark:text-white p-6 rounded">
```

Auto switches with OS mode

```
</div>
```

Note: In Tailwind v4 CLI setup without config, dark mode defaults to class strategy, so if you want OS-based switching, you must:

- either write a minimal tailwind.config.js with darkMode: 'media'
- or toggle manually using JavaScript.

◆ 4. Using Dark Mode Toggle (Optional Bonus)

You can toggle dark mode using JavaScript by switching the dark class on the <html> or <body> tag.

✅ Example Toggle Button:

```
<button onclick="document.body.classList.toggle('dark')"
```

```
class="bg-blue-500 text-white px-4 py-2 rounded">
```

Toggle Dark Mode

```
</button>
```

💡 Interview Questions & Answers

Question

Answer

How to enable dark mode in Tailwind v4?

Use dark: prefix and apply dark class on <html> or <body>.

What is the default strategy in Tailwind v4 for dark mode?

class strategy is default in v4 CLI setup (uses dark: with manual toggle).

Question	Answer
How to test dark mode with OS theme?	Just add dark: classes and switch your OS to dark theme. No config needed.
Can dark mode be toggled manually?	Yes, by adding/removing dark class via JavaScript.
Is tailwind.config.js required for dark mode in v4?	Not required unless customizing behavior (media vs class strategy).