11.3.2

Styling Unique Elements

Robin feels excited to learn how to use CSS to style webpages. She'll be able to use this knowledge to choose HTML elements from which to extract data when web scraping. First, she'll learn about the CSS `id` selector, which identifies a unique element on a page.

You've learned how to use HTML elements, like `p` and `h1`, to organize information on a webpage. On a page with multiple elements, it's likely that you'll want to style a single element differently from the others. That's where the `id` selector comes in. With that selector, you can choose and style one unique element on a page instead of all the elements. And when you do web scraping, you can specify the `id` of an element to pull information from only that element. Let's examine how this works.

Create a file named `index3.html`, and then paste the following code into that file:

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">

<head>
    <meta charset="UTF-8">
    <meta http-equiv="X-UA-Compatible" content="IE=edge">
    <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0"
    <title>Document</title>
</head>

<style>
    #second {
        color: blue;
    }
</style>
```
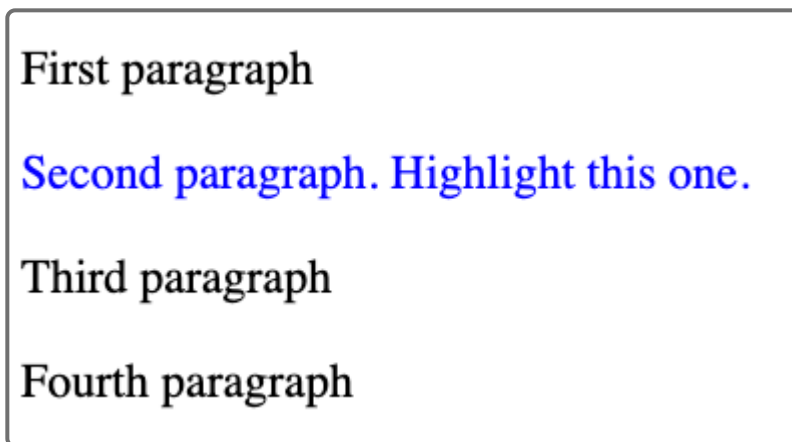
```
<body>
    <p>First paragraph</p>
    <p id="second">Second paragraph. Highlight this one.</p>
    <p>Third paragraph</p>
    <p>Fourth paragraph</p>
</body>

</html>
```

Next, open the file in a browser. Recall that in the previous example, `index1.html`, we changed the color of all the paragraphs. In this file, we changed the color of only the second paragraph. We did so by using the `id` selector. The following image shows this file open in a browser, with the color of only the second paragraph changed to blue:

First paragraph

Second paragraph. Highlight this one.

Third paragraph

Fourth paragraph

In the preceding code block, we used two pieces of code to create this effect. In the body, the second `<p>` tag now has an `id` attribute named `second` as follows `<p id="second">`. The `id` attribute gives this element, the second paragraph, a unique identifier. And by giving this one element a unique identifier, or `id` attribute, we can manipulate this single element like we want.

To select this paragraph in CSS, we use the `id` selector, which consists of a hashtag (`#`) followed by the `id` value of the element (`second`), as the following code shows:

```
#second {
    color: blue;
```

```
}
```

Note that an `id` attribute must be unique to the webpage. That is, multiple elements on the same page can't share the same `id` attribute. So if one paragraph has an `id` attribute of `second`, another paragraph can't also use `second` for its `id` attribute.

Now, practice styling unique elements yourself in the following Skill Drill:

SKILL DRILL

In a new file named `index4.html`, create two `div` elements. Place three paragraphs in each of these elements. Change the text color of the first `div` element by both giving it an `id` tag of `first div` and using the `id` selector in your CSS styling.

Now that you've learned how to style unique elements on a webpage, you'll next learn how to style multiple elements on a webpage.

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