CSS is used to control the style of a web document in a simple and easy way.

CSS is the acronym for **"Cascading Style Sheet"**. This tutorial covers both the versions CSS1,CSS2 and CSS3, and gives a complete understanding of CSS, starting from its basics to advanced concepts.

Advantages of learning CSS:

- **Create Stunning Web site** - CSS handles the look and feel part of a web page. Using CSS, you can control the color of the text, the style of fonts, the spacing between paragraphs, how columns are sized and laid out, what background images or colors are used, layout designs,variations in display for different devices and screen sizes as well as a variety of other effects.
- **Become a web designer** - If you want to start a carrer as a professional web designer, HTML and CSS designing is a must skill.
- **Control web** - CSS is easy to learn and understand but it provides powerful control over the presentation of an HTML document. Most commonly, CSS is combined with the markup languages HTML or XHTML.
- **Learn other languages** - Once you understands the basic of HTML and CSS then other related technologies like javascript, php, or angular are become easier to understand.

Applications of CSS

As mentioned before, CSS is one of the most widely used style language over the web. I'm going to list few of them here:

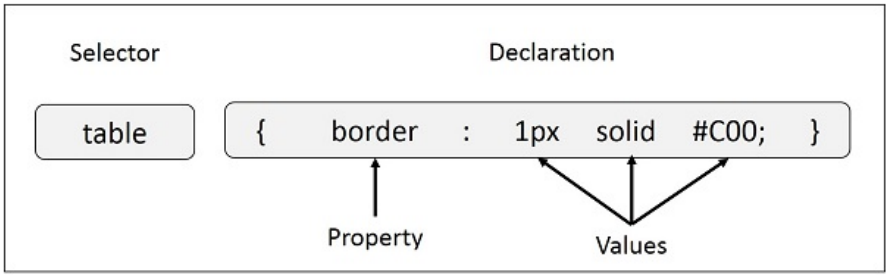
- **CSS saves time** - You can write CSS once and then reuse same sheet in multiple HTML pages. You can define a style for each HTML element and apply it to as many Web pages as you want.
- **Pages load faster** - If you are using CSS, you do not need to write HTML tag attributes every time. Just write one CSS rule of a tag and apply it to all the occurrences of that tag. So less code means faster download times.
- **Easy maintenance** - To make a global change, simply change the style, and all elements in all the web pages will be updated automatically.
- **Superior styles to HTML** - CSS has a much wider array of attributes than HTML, so you can give a far better look to your HTML page in comparison to HTML attributes.
- **Multiple Device Compatibility** - Style sheets allow content to be optimized for more than one type of device. By using the same HTML document, different versions of a website can be presented for handheld devices such as PDAs and cell phones or for printing.
- **Global web standards** - Now HTML attributes are being deprecated and it is being recommended to use CSS. So its a good idea to start using CSS in all the HTML pages to make them compatible to future browsers.

A CSS comprises of style rules that are interpreted by the browser and then applied to the corresponding elements in your document. A style rule is made of three parts −

- **Selector** − A selector is an HTML tag at which a style will be applied. This could be any tag like <h1> or <table> etc.
- **Property** − A property is a type of attribute of HTML tag. Put simply, all the HTML attributes are converted into CSS properties. They could be *color*, *border* etc.
- **Value** − Values are assigned to properties. For example, *color* property can have value either *red* or *#F1F1F1* etc.

You can put CSS Style Rule Syntax as follows −

```
selector { property: value }
```



The Type Selectors

This is the same selector we have seen above. Again, one more example to give a color to all level 1 headings −

```
h1 {
   color: #36CFFF;
}
```

The Universal Selectors

Rather than selecting elements of a specific type, the universal selector quite simply matches the name of any element type −

```
* {
   color: #000000;
}
```

The Descendant Selectors

Suppose you want to apply a style rule to a particular element only when it lies inside a particular element. As given in the following example, style rule will apply to element only when it lies inside <ul> tag.

```
ul em {
   color: #000000;
}
```

The Class Selectors

You can define style rules based on the class attribute of the elements. All the elements having that class will be formatted according to the defined rule.

```
.black {
   color: #000000;
}
```

This rule renders the content in black for every element with class attribute set to *black* in our document. You can make it a bit more particular. For example −

```
h1.black {
   color: #000000;
}
```

This rule renders the content in black for only <h1> elements with class attribute set to *black*.

You can apply more than one class selectors to given element. Consider the following example −

```
<p class = "center bold">
   This para will be styled by the classes center and bold.
</p>
```

The ID Selectors

You can define style rules based on the *id* attribute of the elements. All the elements having that *id* will be formatted according to the defined rule.

```
#black {
   color: #000000;
}
```

This rule renders the content in black for every element with *id* attribute set to *black* in our document. You can make it a bit more particular. For example −

```
h1#black {
   color: #000000;
}
```

This rule renders the content in black for only <h1> elements with *id* attribute set to *black*.

The true power of *id* selectors is when they are used as the foundation for descendant selectors, For example −

```
#black h2 {
   color: #000000;
}
```

In this example all level 2 headings will be displayed in black color when those headings will lie with in tags having *id* attribute set to *black*.

The Child Selectors

You have seen the descendant selectors. There is one more type of selector, which is very similar to descendants but have different functionality. Consider the following example −

```
body > p {
   color: #000000;
}
```

This rule will render all the paragraphs in black if they are direct child of <body> element. Other paragraphs put inside other elements like or <td> would not have any effect of this rule.

The Attribute Selectors

You can also apply styles to HTML elements with particular attributes. The style rule below will match all the input elements having a type attribute with a value of *text* −

```
input[type = "text"] {
   color: #000000;
}
```

The advantage to this method is that the <input type = "submit" /> element is unaffected, and the color applied only to the desired text fields.

There are following rules applied to attribute selector.

- **p[lang]** − Selects all paragraph elements with a *lang* attribute.
- **p[lang="fr"]** − Selects all paragraph elements whose *lang* attribute has a value of exactly "fr".
- **p[lang~="fr"]** − Selects all paragraph elements whose *lang* attribute contains the word "fr".
- **p[lang|="en"]** − Selects all paragraph elements whose *lang* attribute contains values that are exactly "en", or begin with "en-".

Multiple Style Rules

You may need to define multiple style rules for a single element. You can define these rules to combine multiple properties and corresponding values into a single block as defined in the following example −

```
h1 {
   color: #36C;
   font-weight: normal;
   letter-spacing: .4em;
   margin-bottom: 1em;
   text-transform: lowercase;
}
```

Here all the property and value pairs are separated by a **semicolon (;)**. You can keep them in a single line or multiple lines. For better readability, we keep them in separate lines.

For a while, don't bother about the properties mentioned in the above block. These properties will be explained in the coming chapters and you can find complete detail about properties in CSS References

Grouping Selectors

You can apply a style to many selectors if you like. Just separate the selectors with a comma, as given in the following example −

```
h1, h2, h3 {
   color: #36C;
   font-weight: normal;
   letter-spacing: .4em;
   margin-bottom: 1em;
   text-transform: lowercase;
}
```

This define style rule will be applicable to h1, h2 and h3 element as well. The order of the list is irrelevant. All the elements in the selector will have the corresponding declarations applied to them.

You can combine the various *id* selectors together as shown below −

```
#content, #footer, #supplement {
   position: absolute;
   left: 510px;
   width: 200px;
}
```

CSS Comments

Comments are used to explain the code, and may help when you edit the source code at a later date.

Comments are ignored by browsers.

A CSS comment is placed inside the <style> element, and starts with /* and ends with */:

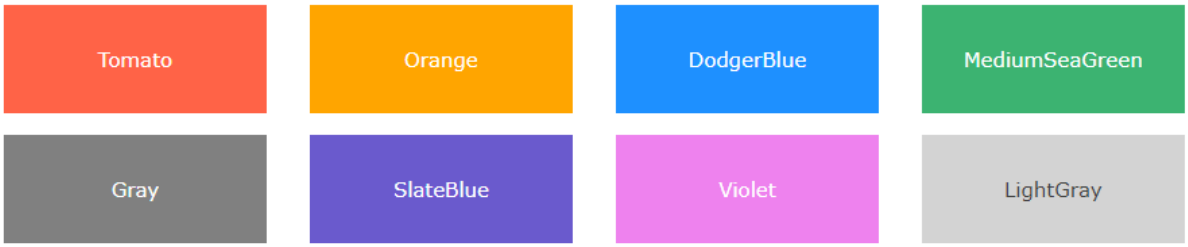
```
/* This is a single-line comment */
p {
  color: red;
}
```

CSS Colors

Colors are specified using predefined color names, or RGB, HEX, HSL, RGBA, HSLA values.

CSS Color Names

In CSS, a color can be specified by using a predefined color name:




```
<h1 style="background-color:DodgerBlue;">Hello World</h1>
<p style="background-color:Tomato;">Lorem ipsum...</p>
```

CSS Text Color

```
<h1 style="color:Tomato;">Hello World</h1>
<p style="color:DodgerBlue;">Lorem ipsum...</p>
<p style="color:MediumSeaGreen;">Ut wisi enim...</p>
```

CSS Border Color

You can set the color of borders:

```
<h1 style="border:2px solid Tomato;">Hello World</h1>
<h1 style="border:2px solid DodgerBlue;">Hello World</h1>
<h1 style="border:2px solid Violet;">Hello World</h1>
```

CSS Color Values

In CSS, colors can also be specified using RGB values, HEX values, HSL values, RGBA values, and HSLA values:

Same as color name "Tomato":

```
<h1 style="background-color:rgb(255, 99, 71);">...</h1>
<h1 style="background-color:#ff6347;">...</h1>
<h1 style="background-color:hsl(9, 100%, 64%);">...</h1>

<h1 style="background-color:rgba(255, 99, 71, 0.5);">...</h1>
<h1 style="background-color:hsla(9, 100%, 64%, 0.5);">...</h1>
```

HSL Colors

HSL color values are supported in IE9+, Firefox, Chrome, Safari, and in Opera 10+.

HSL stands for hue, saturation, and lightness.

HSL color values are specified with: `hsl(hue, saturation, lightness)`.

Hue

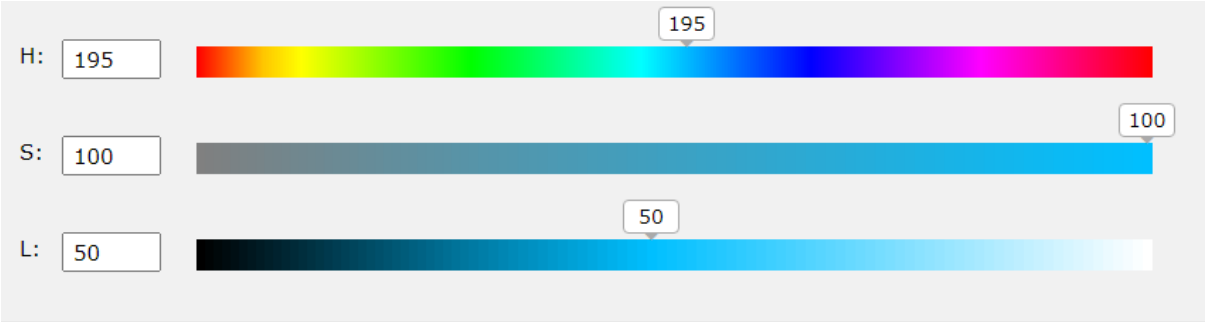
Hue is a degree on the color wheel from 0 to 360. 0 is red, 120 is green, 240 is blue.

Saturation

Saturation is a percentage value; 0% means a shade of gray and 100% is the full color.

Lightness

Lightness is also a percentage; 0% is black, 100% is white.



CSS Backgrounds

The CSS background properties are used to add background effects for elements

CSS background-color

The `background-color` property specifies the background color of an element.

```
body {
  background-color: lightblue;
}
```

Opacity / Transparency

The `opacity` property specifies the opacity/transparency of an element. It can take a value from 0.0 - 1.0. The lower value, the more transparent:

```
div {
  background-color: green;
  opacity: 0.3;
}
```

CSS background-image

The `background-image` property specifies an image to use as the background of an element.

By default, the image is repeated so it covers the entire element.

```
body {
  background-image: url("paper.gif");
}
```

CSS background-repeat

By default, the `background-image` property repeats an image both horizontally and vertically.

If the image above is repeated only horizontally (`background-repeat: repeat-x;`), the background will look better:

```
body {
  background-image: url("gradient_bg.png");
  background-repeat: repeat-x;
}
```

CSS background-repeat: no-repeat

Showing the background image only once is also specified by the `background-repeat` property:

```
body {
  background-image: url("img_tree.png");
  background-repeat: no-repeat;
}
```

CSS background-position

The `background-position` property is used to specify the position of the background image.

```
body {
  background-image: url("img_tree.png");
  background-repeat: no-repeat;
  background-position: right top;
}
```

CSS Borders

The CSS border properties allow you to specify the style, width, and color of an element's border.

CSS Border Style

The `border-style` property specifies what kind of border to display.

The following values are allowed:

- `dotted` - Defines a dotted border
- `dashed` - Defines a dashed border
- `solid` - Defines a solid border
- `double` - Defines a double border
- `groove` - Defines a 3D grooved border. The effect depends on the border-color value
- `ridge` - Defines a 3D ridged border. The effect depends on the border-color value
- `inset` - Defines a 3D inset border. The effect depends on the border-color value
- `outset` - Defines a 3D outset border. The effect depends on the border-color value
- `none` - Defines no border
- `hidden` - Defines a hidden border

The `border-style` property can have from one to four values (for the top border, right border, bottom border, and the left border).

```
p.dotted {border-style: dotted;}
p.dashed {border-style: dashed;}
p.solid {border-style: solid;}
p.double {border-style: double;}
p.groove {border-style: groove;}
p.ridge {border-style: ridge;}
p.inset {border-style: inset;}
p.outset {border-style: outset;}
p.none {border-style: none;}
p.hidden {border-style: hidden;}
p.mix {border-style: dotted dashed solid double;}
```

CSS Border Width

The `border-width` property specifies the width of the four borders.

The width can be set as a specific size (in px, pt, cm, em, etc) or by using one of the three pre-defined values: thin, medium, or thick:

```
p.one {
  border-style: solid;
  border-width: 5px;
}

p.two {
  border-style: solid;
  border-width: medium;
}

p.three {
  border-style: dotted;
  border-width: 2px;
```

```
}

p.four {
  border-style: dotted;
  border-width: thick;
}
```

Specific Side Widths

The `border-width` property can have from one to four values (for the top border, right border, bottom border, and the left border):

```
p.one {
  border-style: solid;
  border-width: 5px 20px; /* 5px top and bottom, 20px on the sides */
}

p.two {
  border-style: solid;
  border-width: 20px 5px; /* 20px top and bottom, 5px on the sides */
}

p.three {
  border-style: solid;
  border-width: 25px 10px 4px 35px; /* 25px top, 10px right, 4px bottom and 35px left
*/
}
```

CSS Border Color

The `border-color` property is used to set the color of the four borders.

The color can be set by:

- name - specify a color name, like "red"
- HEX - specify a HEX value, like "#ff0000"
- RGB - specify a RGB value, like "rgb(255,0,0)"
- HSL - specify a HSL value, like "hsl(0, 100%, 50%)"
- transparent

```
p.one {
  border-style: solid;
  border-color: red;
}

p.two {
  border-style: solid;
```

```
  border-color: green;
}

p.three {
  border-style: dotted;
  border-color: blue;
}
```

CSS Margins

The CSS `margin` properties are used to create space around elements, outside of any defined borders.

With CSS, you have full control over the margins. There are properties for setting the margin for each side of an element (top, right, bottom, and left).

Margin - Individual Sides

CSS has properties for specifying the margin for each side of an element:

- `margin-top`
- `margin-right`
- `margin-bottom`
- `margin-left`

All the margin properties can have the following values:

- auto - the browser calculates the margin
- *length* - specifies a margin in px, pt, cm, etc.
- *%* - specifies a margin in % of the width of the containing element
- inherit - specifies that the margin should be inherited from the parent element

```
p {
  margin-top: 100px;
  margin-bottom: 100px;
  margin-right: 150px;
  margin-left: 80px;
}
```

CSS Padding

Padding is used to create space around an element's content, inside of any defined border

The CSS `padding` properties are used to generate space around an element's content, inside of any defined borders.

With CSS, you have full control over the padding. There are properties for setting the padding for each side of an element (top, right, bottom, and left).

Padding - Individual Sides

CSS has properties for specifying the padding for each side of an element:

- `padding-top`
- `padding-right`
- `padding-bottom`
- `padding-left`

All the padding properties can have the following values:

- *length* - specifies a padding in px, pt, cm, etc.
- *%* - specifies a padding in % of the width of the containing element
- inherit - specifies that the padding should be inherited from the parent element

```
div {
  padding-top: 50px;
  padding-right: 30px;
  padding-bottom: 50px;
  padding-left: 80px;
}
```

CSS Height and Width

The CSS `height` and `width` properties are used to set the height and width of an element.

The CSS `max-width` property is used to set the maximum width of an element.

```
div {
  height: 50px;
  width: 100%;
  border: 1px solid #4CAF50;
}
```

The CSS Box Model

In CSS, the term "box model" is used when talking about design and layout.

The CSS box model is essentially a box that wraps around every HTML element. It consists of: margins, borders, padding, and the actual content. The image below illustrates the box model:

Explanation of the different parts:

- **Content** - The content of the box, where text and images appear
- **Padding** - Clears an area around the content. The padding is transparent
- **Border** - A border that goes around the padding and content
- **Margin** - Clears an area outside the border. The margin is transparent

The box model allows us to add a border around elements, and to define space between elements.

```
div {
  width: 300px;
  border: 15px solid green;
  padding: 50px;
  margin: 20px;
}
```

CSS Outline

An outline is a line drawn outside the element's border.

```
p {
  border: 2px solid black;
  outline: #4CAF50 solid 10px;
  margin: auto;
  padding: 20px;
  text-align: center;
}
```

CSS Text

CSS has a lot of properties for formatting text.

Text Color

The `color` property is used to set the color of the text. The color is specified by:

- a color name - like "red"

- a HEX value - like "#ff0000"
- an RGB value - like "rgb(255,0,0)"

Look at CSS Color Values for a complete list of possible color values.

The default text color for a page is defined in the body selector.

Text Color and Background Color

In this example, we define both the `background-color` property and the `color` property:

```
body {
  background-color: lightgrey;
  color: blue;
}

h1 {
  background-color: black;
  color: white;
}
```

Text Alignment

The `text-align` property is used to set the horizontal alignment of a text.

A text can be left or right aligned, centered, or justified.

The following example shows center aligned, and left and right aligned text (left alignment is default if text direction is left-to-right, and right alignment is default if text direction is right-to-left):

```
h1 {
  text-align: center;
}

h2 {
  text-align: left;
}

h3 {
  text-align: right;
}
```

Text Decoration

The `text-decoration` property is used to set or remove decorations from text.

The value `text-decoration: none;` is often used to remove underlines from links:

```css
a {
  text-decoration: none;
}


h1 {
  text-decoration: overline;
}

h2 {
  text-decoration: line-through;
}

h3 {
  text-decoration: underline;
}
```

Text Transformation

The `text-transform` property is used to specify uppercase and lowercase letters in a text.

It can be used to turn everything into uppercase or lowercase letters, or capitalize the first letter of each word:

```css
p.uppercase {
  text-transform: uppercase;
}

p.lowercase {
  text-transform: lowercase;
}

p.capitalize {
  text-transform: capitalize;
}
```

Text Indentation

The `text-indent` property is used to specify the indentation of the first line of a text:

```css
p {
  text-indent: 50px;
}
```

Letter Spacing

The `letter-spacing` property is used to specify the space between the characters in a text.

The following example demonstrates how to increase or decrease the space between characters:

```css
h1 {
  letter-spacing: 3px;
}

h2 {
  letter-spacing: -3px;
}
```

Text Shadow

The `text-shadow` property adds shadow to text.

In its simplest use, you only specify the horizontal shadow (2px) and the vertical shadow (2px):

```css
h1 {
  text-shadow: 2px 2px;
}
```

```css
h1 {
  text-shadow: 2px 2px red;
}
```

CSS Fonts

Choosing the right font has a huge impact on how the readers experience a website.

The right font can create a strong identity for your brand.

Using a font that is easy to read is important. The font adds value to your text. It is also important to choose the correct color and text size for the font.

```css
.p1 {
  font-family: "Times New Roman", Times, serif;
}

.p2 {
  font-family: Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif;
}

.p3 {
  font-family: "Lucida Console", "Courier New", monospace;
}
```

CSS Layout - The display Property

The `display` property is the most important CSS property for controlling layout.

```
span {
  display: block;
}
```

```
h1.hidden {
  display: none;
}
```