

6 TIPS OF `<a>`



ANCHOR ELEMENT

YOU WISH YOU KNEW



1

EASILY TRIGGER FILE DOWNLOAD

Initiate download of any **same-origin** resource just by adding **download** attribute to the anchor element.



```
<a  
  href="/images/logo.png"  
  download="codewithshripal-logo.png">Download Logo  
</a>
```

Value of the **download** attribute is optional. When it is set, the file will be downloaded with that name.

We can also set **blob:** or **data:** URL in **href** to trigger download of dynamically generated content!

2

PROVIDE BETTER UX FOR TEL/SMS NUMBER

Instead of writing tel/sms number as plain text, create a link with **tel:** or **sms:** url scheme.

On click of such link, a supported phone / message app gets opened on user device with pre-filled number and text body.

```
<a href="tel:+1-202-555-0194">+1-202-555-0194</a>
```

```
<a href="sms:+1-202-555-0194">+1-202-555-0194</a>
```

```
<!-- SMS With Pre-filled Text (for Android): -->
```

```
<a href="sms:+1-202-555-0194?body=CODE2022">  
+1-202-555-0194
```

```
</a>
```

```
<!-- SMS With Pre-filled Text (for MacOS/iOS): -->
```

```
<a href="sms:+1-202-555-0194&body=CODE2022">  
+1-202-555-0194
```

```
</a>
```



PROVIDE BETTER UX FOR EMAIL

Instead of writing email id as plain text on web page, create a link with **email:** url scheme.

On click of such link, default email client on user's device gets opened with various fields pre-filled.

```
<!-- Send to single email ID -->
```

```
<a  
  href="mailto:me@codewithshripal.com"  
  target="_blank">me@codewithshripal.com  
</a>
```

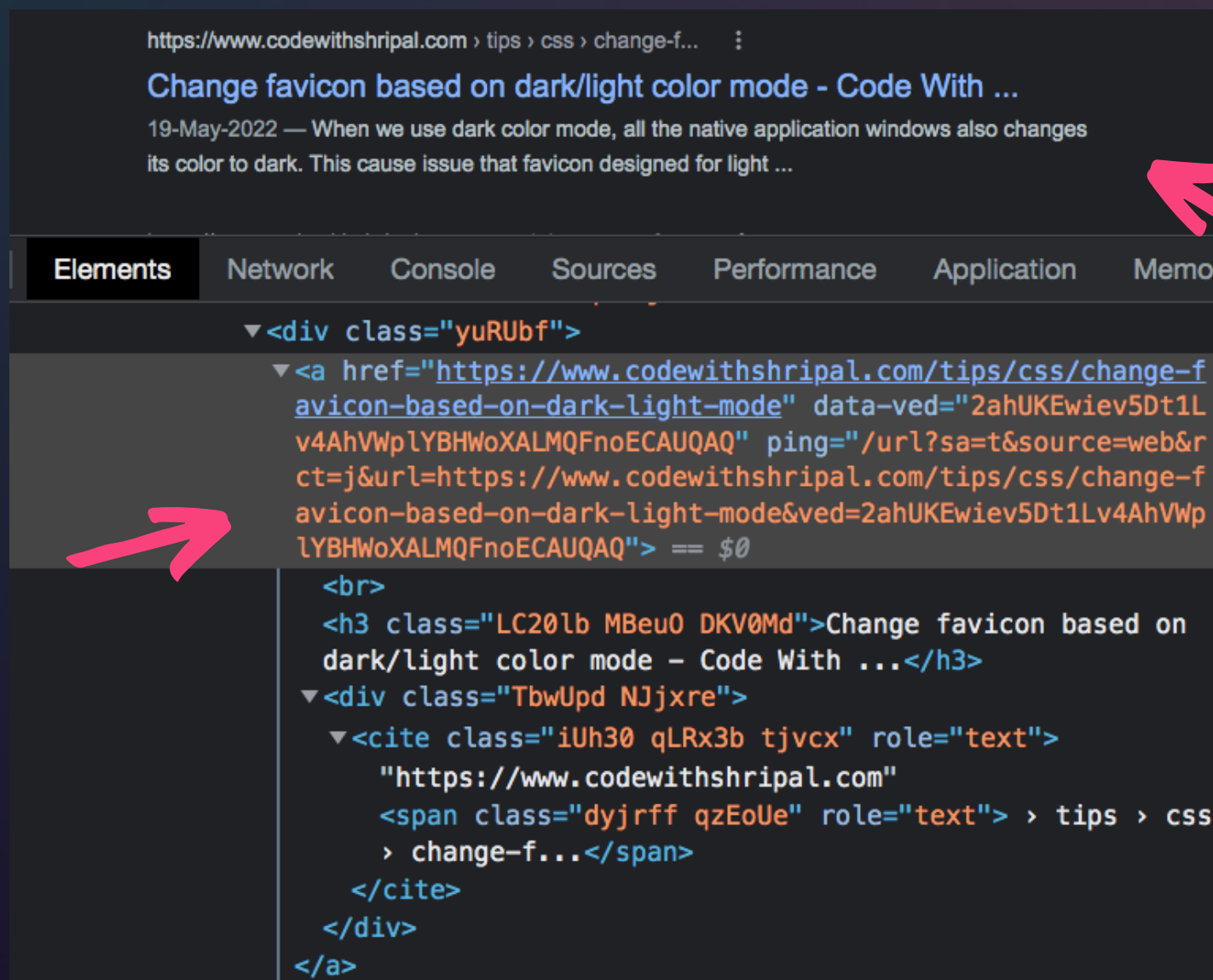
```
<!-- Send to multiple email IDs with all the supported fields-->
```

```
<a  
  href="mailto:me@codewithshripal.com, support@codewithshripal.com  
  ?subject=Support Request  
  &body=I found a bug  
  &cc=foo@bar.com  
  &bcc=test@example.com"  
  target="_blank">me@codewithshripal.com  
</a>
```



CREATE LINK FOR WHOLE BLOCK

`<a>` inherits content model from its parent element. That means when `<a>` is in a block content element, it can contain any block element such as `h1`, `section`, `div` etc. as its content.



The screenshot shows a web browser with the address bar displaying `https://www.codewithshripal.com > tips > css > change-f...`. The page title is "Change favicon based on dark/light color mode - Code With ...". The main content area shows a date "19-May-2022" and a paragraph: "When we use dark color mode, all the native application windows also changes its color to dark. This cause issue that favicon designed for light ...".

The developer tools are open, showing the "Elements" tab. The DOM tree shows a `<div class="yuRUBf">` containing an ` == $0`. The link's content is a block element containing a `
`, an `<h3 class="LC20lb MB eu0 DKV0Md">Change favicon based on dark/light color mode - Code With ...</h3>`, and a `<div class="TbwUpd NJjxre">` containing a `<cite class="iUh30 qLRx3b tjvcx" role="text">` with the URL `"https://www.codewithshripal.com"` and a `` with the breadcrumb `> tips > css > change-f...`.



Example:

`<a>` contains both link title and breadcrumbs. So, when we click on any of them, it will open the linked page.


SET rel="noreferrer" FOR BETTER SECURITY

Set **rel="noreferrer"** for all the external links on **sensitive pages** of a website, such as password reset page.

```
<a href="https://twitter.com/handle" target="_blank" rel="noreferrer">
  Twitter
</a>
```



Why?

Name	×	Headers	Preview	Response	Initiator
 codewithshripal twitter.com		pragma: no-cache			
		referrer: https://www.codewithshripal.com/			

- For security purposes because URL of the webpage, from where the external link is opened, is by default passed in referrer request header. **rel="noreferrer"** prevents it.
- **rel="noreferrer"** also automatically sets window.opener to null, which helps in preventing security and performance issues in legacy browsers.

CREATE SEO FRIENDLY ADVERTISEMENT LINKS

Use **rel="sponsored"** for advertisement links to avoid degradation in ranking!

```
<a href="my-product.com" rel="sponsored">  
  Buy Product Created by Shripal Soni  
</a>
```

Previously **rel="nofollow"** was used in such a scenario, which works today as well. But, Google prefers using **rel="sponsored"**.

Do you find it helpful? 😊

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