

CSS SELECTORS BEST PRACTICES

01

SELECTOR INTENT

Selector Intent is the process of deciding and defining what you want to style and how you will go about selecting it.

e.g. If we want to select the main navigation menu:



This selector's intent is to style any **ul** inside any **header** element, whereas our intent was to style the site's main navigation.

01

SELECTOR INTENT

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“your selectors should be as explicit and well reasoned as your reason for wanting to select something.”

Harry Roberts

More info on <https://cssguidelin.es/#css-selectors>

02

REUSABILITY

Everything you choose, from the type of selector to its name, should lend itself toward being reused.



03

LOCATION INDEPENDENCE

Don't style things based on where they are, but on what they are.

e.g. We want to style a promotion call-to-action button:



Locationally dependent: we can't reuse that button with its correct styling outside of `.promo`

04

PERFORMANCE

Keep selectors as short as possible, this will keep specificity down and performance up.

e.g. We want to style a navigation menu link:

