# HTML Styles - CSS

CSS stands for Cascading Style Sheets.

CSS saves a lot of work. It can control the layout of multiple web pages all at once.

## **What is CSS?**

Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) is used to format the layout of a webpage.

With CSS, you can control the color, font, the size of text, the spacing between elements, how elements are positioned and laid out, what background images or background colors are to be used, different displays for different devices and screen sizes, and much more!

**Tip:** The word **cascading** means that a style applied to a parent element will also apply to all children elements within the parent. So, if you set the color of the body text to "blue", all headings, paragraphs, and other text elements within the body will also get the same color (unless you specify something else)!

Using CSS

CSS can be added to HTML documents in 3 ways:

Inline - by using the style attribute inside HTML elements

Internal - by using a <style> element in the <head> section

External - by using a <link> element to link to an external CSS file

The most common way to add CSS, is to keep the styles in external CSS files. However, in this tutorial we will use inline and internal styles, because this is easier to demonstrate, and easier for you to try it yourself.

Inline CSS

An inline CSS is used to apply a unique style to a single HTML element.

An inline CSS uses the style attribute of an HTML element.

The following example sets the text color of the <h1> element to blue, and the text color of the <p> element to red:

Example

<h1 style="color:blue;">A Blue Heading</h1>

<p style="color:red;">A red paragraph.</p>

ADVERTISEMENT

Internal CSS

An internal CSS is used to define a style for a single HTML page.

An internal CSS is defined in the <head> section of an HTML page, within a <style> element.

The following example sets the text color of ALL the <h1> elements (on that page) to blue, and the text color of ALL the <p> elements to red. In addition, the page will be displayed with a "powderblue" background color:

Example

<!DOCTYPE html>

<html>

<head>

<style>

body {background-color: powderblue;}

h1 {color: blue;}

p {color: red;}

</style>

</head>

<body>

<h1>This is a heading</h1>

<p>This is a paragraph.</p>

</body>

</html>

External CSS

An external style sheet is used to define the style for many HTML pages.

To use an external style sheet, add a link to it in the <head> section of each HTML page:

Example

<!DOCTYPE html>

<html>

<head>

<link rel="stylesheet" href="styles.css">

</head>

<body>

<h1>This is a heading</h1>

<p>This is a paragraph.</p>

</body>

</html>

The external style sheet can be written in any text editor. The file must not contain any HTML code, and must be saved with a .css extension.

Here is what the "styles.css" file looks like:

"styles.css":

body {

background-color: powderblue;

}

h1 {

color: blue;

}

p {

color: red;

}

Tip: With an external style sheet, you can change the look of an entire web site, by changing one file!

CSS Colors, Fonts and Sizes

Here, we will demonstrate some commonly used CSS properties. You will learn more about them later.

The CSS color property defines the text color to be used.

The CSS font-family property defines the font to be used.

The CSS font-size property defines the text size to be used.

Example

Use of CSS color, font-family and font-size properties:

<!DOCTYPE html>

<html>

<head>

<style>

h1 {

color: blue;

font-family: verdana;

font-size: 300%;

}

p {

color: red;

font-family: courier;

font-size: 160%;

}

</style>

</head>

<body>

<h1>This is a heading</h1>

<p>This is a paragraph.</p>

</body>

</html>

CSS Border

The CSS border property defines a border around an HTML element.

Tip: You can define a border for nearly all HTML elements.

Example

Use of CSS border property:

p {

border: 2px solid powderblue;

}

CSS Padding

The CSS padding property defines a padding (space) between the text and the border.

Example

Use of CSS border and padding properties:

p {

border: 2px solid powderblue;

padding: 30px;

}

CSS Margin

The CSS margin property defines a margin (space) outside the border.

Example

Use of CSS border and margin properties:

p {

border: 2px solid powderblue;

margin: 50px;

}

Link to External CSS

External style sheets can be referenced with a full URL or with a path relative to the current web page.

Example

This example uses a full URL to link to a style sheet:

<link rel="stylesheet" href="https://www.w3schools.com/html/styles.css">

Example

This example links to a style sheet located in the html folder on the current web site:

<link rel="stylesheet" href="/html/styles.css">

Example

This example links to a style sheet located in the same folder as the current page:

<link rel="stylesheet" href="styles.css">

You can read more about file paths in the chapter HTML File Paths.

Chapter Summary

Use the HTML style attribute for inline styling

Use the HTML <style> element to define internal CSS

Use the HTML <link> element to refer to an external CSS file

Use the HTML <head> element to store <style> and <link> elements

Use the CSS color property for text colors

Use the CSS font-family property for text fonts

Use the CSS font-size property for text sizes

Use the CSS border property for borders

Use the CSS padding property for space inside the border

Use the CSS margin property for space outside the border

Tip: You can learn much

# HTML Links

[❮ Previous](https://www.w3schools.com/html/html_css.asp)[Next ❯](https://www.w3schools.com/html/html_links_colors.asp)

Links are found in nearly all web pages. Links allow users to click their way from page to page.

## **HTML Links - Hyperlinks**

HTML links are hyperlinks.

You can click on a link and jump to another document.

When you move the mouse over a link, the mouse arrow will turn into a little hand.

**Note:** A link does not have to be text. A link can be an image or any other HTML element!

## **HTML Links - Syntax**

The HTML <a> tag defines a hyperlink. It has the following syntax:

<a href="*url*">*link text*</a>

The most important attribute of the <a> element is the href attribute, which indicates the link's destination.

The link text is the part that will be visible to the reader.

Clicking on the link text, will send the reader to the specified URL address.

### **Example**

This example shows how to create a link to W3Schools.com:

<a href="https://www.w3schools.com/">Visit W3Schools.com!</a>

[Try it Yourself »](https://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_links_w3schools)

By default, links will appear as follows in all browsers:

* An unvisited link is underlined and blue
* A visited link is underlined and purple
* An active link is underlined and red

**Tip:** Links can of course be styled with CSS, to get another look!

## **HTML Links - The target Attribute**

By default, the linked page will be displayed in the current browser window. To change this, you must specify another target for the link.

The target attribute specifies where to open the linked document.

The target attribute can have one of the following values:

* \_self - Default. Opens the document in the same window/tab as it was clicked
* \_blank - Opens the document in a new window or tab
* \_parent - Opens the document in the parent frame
* \_top - Opens the document in the full body of the window

### **Example**

Use target="\_blank" to open the linked document in a new browser window or tab:

<a href="https://www.w3schools.com/" target="\_blank">Visit W3Schools!</a>

[Try it Yourself »](https://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_links_target)

## **Absolute URLs vs. Relative URLs**

Both examples above are using an **absolute URL** (a full web address) in the href attribute.

A local link (a link to a page within the same website) is specified with a **relative URL** (without the "https://www" part):

### **Example**

<h2>Absolute URLs</h2>  
<p><a href="https://www.w3.org/">W3C</a></p>  
<p><a href="https://www.google.com/">Google</a></p>  
  
<h2>Relative URLs</h2>  
<p><a href="html\_images.asp">HTML Images</a></p>  
<p><a href="/css/default.asp">CSS Tutorial</a></p>

[Try it Yourself »](https://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_links)

ADVERTISEMENT

## **HTML Links - Use an Image as a Link**

To use an image as a link, just put the <img> tag inside the <a> tag:

### **Example**

<a href="default.asp">  
<img src="smiley.gif" alt="HTML tutorial" style="width:42px;height:42px;">  
</a>

[Try it Yourself »](https://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_links_image)

## **Link to an Email Address**

Use mailto: inside the href attribute to create a link that opens the user's email program (to let them send a new email):

### **Example**

<a href="mailto:someone@example.com">Send email</a>

[Try it Yourself »](https://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_links_email)

## **Button as a Link**

To use an HTML button as a link, you have to add some JavaScript code.

JavaScript allows you to specify what happens at certain events, such as a click of a button:

### **Example**

<button onclick="document.location='default.asp'">HTML Tutorial</button>

[Try it Yourself »](https://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_links_button_element)

**Tip:** Learn more about JavaScript in our [JavaScript Tutorial](https://www.w3schools.com/js/default.asp).

## **Link Titles**

The title attribute specifies extra information about an element. The information is most often shown as a tooltip text when the mouse moves over the element.

### **Example**

<a href="https://www.w3schools.com/html/" title="Go to W3Schools HTML section">Visit our HTML Tutorial</a>

[Try it Yourself »](https://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_links_title)

## **More on Absolute URLs and Relative URLs**

### **Example**

Use a full URL to link to a web page:

<a href="https://www.w3schools.com/html/default.asp">HTML tutorial</a>

[Try it Yourself »](https://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_links_external_url)

### **Example**

Link to a page located in the html folder on the current web site:

<a href="/html/default.asp">HTML tutorial</a>

[Try it Yourself »](https://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_links_external_relative)

### **Example**

Link to a page located in the same folder as the current page:

<a href="default.asp">HTML tutorial</a>

[Try it Yourself »](https://www.w3schools.com/html/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_links_external)

You can read more about file paths in the chapter [HTML File Paths](https://www.w3schools.com/html/html_filepaths.asp).

## **Chapter Summary**

* Use the <a> element to define a link
* Use the href attribute to define the link address
* Use the target attribute to define where to open the linked document
* Use the <img> element (inside <a>) to use an image as a link
* Use the mailto: scheme inside the href attribute to create a link that opens the user's email program