

What is CSS?

Cascading **Style Sheets**, fondly referred to as CSS, is a simple design language intended to simplify the process of making web pages presentable.

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, as well as a variety of other effects.

CSS is easy to learn and understand but it provides a powerful control over the presentation of an HTML document. Most commonly, CSS is combined with the markup languages HTML or XHTML.

Advantages of CSS

- **CSS saves time** - You can write CSS once and then reuse the 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 the elements in all the web pages will be updated automatically.

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 the value either *red* or *#F1F1F1* etc.

You can put CSS Style Rule Syntax as follows:

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

Example: You can define a table border as follows:

```
table{ border :1px solid #C00; }
```

Here table is a selector and border is a property and the given value *1px solid #C00* is the value of that property.

You can define selectors in various simple ways based on your comfort. Let me put these selectors one by one.

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, the style rule will apply to `` element only when it lies inside the `` 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 a given element. Consider the following example:

```
<p class="center bold">
```