There are a wide variety of CSS selectors available, allowing for fine-grained precision when selecting elements to style. In this article we'll run through the different types in great detail, seeing how they work. In CSS, selectors are used to target the HTML elements on our web pages that we want to style.

A CSS selector is the first part of a CSS Rule. It is a pattern of elements and other terms that tell the browser which HTML elements should be selected to have the CSS property values inside the rule applied to them. The element or elements which are selected by the selector are referred to as the subject of the selector.

We can divide CSS selectors into five categories:

Simple selectors (select elements based on name, id, class)

[Combinator selectors](https://www.w3schools.com/css/css_combinators.asp) (select elements based on a specific relationship between them)

[Pseudo-class selectors](https://www.w3schools.com/css/css_pseudo_classes.asp) (select elements based on a certain state)

[Pseudo-elements selectors](https://www.w3schools.com/css/css_pseudo_elements.asp) (select and style a part of an element)

[Attribute selectors](https://www.w3schools.com/css/css_attribute_selectors.asp) (select elements based on an attribute or attribute value)

They allow you to define rules for how specific elements on a web page should be displayed or behave. Here are some common CSS selectors:

**Type Selector (Element Selector):**

Selects elements based on their HTML tag name.

Example: **p** selects all **<p>** elements on the page.

**Class Selector:**

Selects elements with a specific class attribute.

Example: **.my-class** selects all elements with **class="my-class"**.

**ID Selector:**

Selects a single element with a specific ID attribute.

Example: **#my-id** selects the element with **id="my-id"**.

**Universal Selector:**

Selects all elements on the page.

Example: **\*** selects all elements.

**Descendant Selector:**

Selects an element that is a descendant of another element.

Example: **div p** selects all **<p>** elements inside a **<div>**.

**Child Selector:**

Selects an element that is a direct child of another element.

Example: **ul > li** selects all **<li>** elements that are direct children of a **<ul>**.

**Adjacent Sibling Selector:**

Selects an element that is an immediate sibling of another element.

Example: **h2 + p** selects a **<p>** that follows an **<h2>** immediately.

**Attribute Selector:**

Selects elements with a specific attribute and, optionally, a specific attribute value.

Example: **[type="text"]** selects all elements with **type="text"**.

**Pseudo-Class Selector:**

Selects elements based on their state or position in the document.

Example: **a:hover** selects **<a>** elements when hovered over by the mouse.

**Pseudo-Element Selector:**

Selects specific parts of an element, like the first line or first letter.

Example: **p::first-line** selects the first line of a **<p>** element.

**Grouping Selector:**

Allows you to group multiple selectors together and apply the same styles to all of them.

Example: **h1, h2, h3** selects all **<h1>**, **<h2>**, and **<h3>** elements.

**General Sibling Selector (~):**

The general sibling selector selects all elements that are siblings of a specified element and share the same parent.

Syntax: **element1 ~ element2**

Example: **h2 ~ p** selects all **<p>** elements that are siblings of an **<h2>** and share the same parent.