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CSS Selector Reference

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CSS Selectors

In CSS, selectors are patterns used to select the element(s) you want to style.

Use our [CSS Selector Tester](#) to demonstrate the different selectors.

Selector	Example	Example description
<u>.class</u>	.intro	Selects all elements with class="intro"
.class1.class2	<div class="name1 name2">...</div>	Selects all elements with both <i>name1</i> and <i>name2</i> set within its class attribute

<code>.class1 .class2</code>	<pre><div class="name1"> <div class="name2"> ... </div> </div></pre>	Selects all elements with <i>name2</i> that is a descendant of an element with <i>name1</i>
<code>#id</code>	<code>#firstname</code>	Selects the element with <code>id="firstname"</code>
<code>*</code>	<code>*</code>	Selects all elements
<code>element</code>	<code>p</code>	Selects all <code><p></code> elements
<code>element,element</code>	<code>div, p</code>	Selects all <code><div></code> elements and all <code><p></code> elements
<code>element element</code>	<code>div p</code>	Selects all <code><p></code> elements inside <code><div></code> elements
<code>element>element</code>	<code>div > p</code>	Selects all <code><p></code> elements where the parent is a <code><div></code> element
<code>element+element</code>	<code>div + p</code>	Selects all <code><p></code> elements that are placed immediately after <code><div></code> elements
<code>element1~element2</code>	<code>p ~ ul</code>	Selects every <code></code> element that are preceded by a <code><p></code> element
<code>[attribute]</code>	<code>[target]</code>	Selects all elements with a target attribute
<code>[attribute=value]</code>	<code>[target=_blank]</code>	Selects all elements with <code>target="_blank"</code>
<code>[attribute~=value]</code>	<code>[title~=flower]</code>	Selects all elements with a title attribute containing the word "flower"
<code>[attribute =value]</code>	<code>[lang =en]</code>	Selects all elements with a lang attribute value starting with "en"
<code>[attribute^=value]</code>	<code>a[href^="https"]</code>	Selects every <code><a></code> element whose href attribute value begins with "https"
<code>[attribute\$=value]</code>	<code>a[href\$=".pdf"]</code>	Selects every <code><a></code> element whose href attribute value ends with ".pdf"
<code>[attribute*=value]</code>	<code>a[href*="w3schools"]</code>	Selects every <code><a></code> element whose href attribute value contains the substring "w3schools"

<u>:active</u>	a:active	Selects the active link
<u>::after</u>	p::after	Insert something after the content of each <p> element
<u>::before</u>	p::before	Insert something before the content of each <p> element
<u>:checked</u>	input:checked	Selects every checked <input> element
<u>:default</u>	input:default	Selects the default <input> element
<u>:disabled</u>	input:disabled	Selects every disabled <input> element
<u>:empty</u>	p:empty	Selects every <p> element that has no children (including text nodes)
<u>:enabled</u>	input:enabled	Selects every enabled <input> element
<u>:first-child</u>	p:first-child	Selects every <p> element that is the first child of its parent
<u>::first-letter</u>	p::first-letter	Selects the first letter of every <p> element
<u>::first-line</u>	p::first-line	Selects the first line of every <p> element
<u>:first-of-type</u>	p:first-of-type	Selects every <p> element that is the first <p> element of its parent
<u>:focus</u>	input:focus	Selects the input element which has focus
<u>:hover</u>	a:hover	Selects links on mouse over
<u>:in-range</u>	input:in-range	Selects input elements with a value within a specified range
<u>:indeterminate</u>	input:indeterminate	Selects input elements that are in an indeterminate state
<u>:invalid</u>	input:invalid	Selects all input elements with an invalid value
<u>:lang(<i>language</i>)</u>	p:lang(it)	Selects every <p> element with a lang attribute equal to "it" (Italian)

<u>:last-child</u>	p:last-child	Selects every <p> element that is the last child of its parent
<u>:last-of-type</u>	p:last-of-type	Selects every <p> element that is the last <p> element of its parent
<u>:link</u>	a:link	Selects all unvisited links
<u>:not(selector)</u>	:not(p)	Selects every element that is not a <p> element
<u>:nth-child(n)</u>	p:nth-child(2)	Selects every <p> element that is the second child of its parent
<u>:nth-last-child(n)</u>	p:nth-last-child(2)	Selects every <p> element that is the second child of its parent, counting from the last child
<u>:nth-last-of-type(n)</u>	p:nth-last-of-type(2)	Selects every <p> element that is the second <p> element of its parent, counting from the last child
<u>:nth-of-type(n)</u>	p:nth-of-type(2)	Selects every <p> element that is the second <p> element of its parent
<u>:only-of-type</u>	p:only-of-type	Selects every <p> element that is the only <p> element of its parent
<u>:only-child</u>	p:only-child	Selects every <p> element that is the only child of its parent
<u>:optional</u>	input:optional	Selects input elements with no "required" attribute
<u>:out-of-range</u>	input:out-of-range	Selects input elements with a value outside a specified range
<u>::placeholder</u>	input::placeholder	Selects input elements with placeholder text
<u>:read-only</u>	input:read-only	Selects input elements with the "readonly" attribute specified
<u>:read-write</u>	input:read-write	Selects input elements with the "readonly" attribute NOT specified
<u>:required</u>	input:required	Selects input elements with the "required" attribute specified
<u>:root</u>	:root	Selects the document's root element

<u>::selection</u>	::selection	Selects the portion of an element that is selected by a user
<u>:target</u>	#news:target	Selects the current active #news element (clicked on a URL containing that anchor name)
<u>:valid</u>	input:valid	Selects all input elements with a valid value
<u>:visited</u>	a:visited	Selects all visited links

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