

Lesson

Tuesday

Introduction to Programming

(/introduction-to-programming)

/ Git, HTML and CSS (/introduction-to-programming/git-html-and-css)

/ CSS: Styling Text and Best Practices

Text

Cheat sheet

Terminology

- **CSS:** Stands for Cascading Style Sheets. A language used to program the visual appearance of HTML elements.
- **Rule:** A block of CSS that details particular stylistic instructions to be applied to an HTML element.
- **Selector:** The part of a CSS rule that determines which HTML elements the rule applies to.
- **Declaration Block:** Designated by curly brackets `{ }`, this is where we define the CSS styles.
- **Property:** The characteristic a CSS rule is altering. (For example, `color`, or `font-size`).
- **Value:** The attribute a CSS rule is applying to the specified property.
- **Declaration:** The combination of a property and value together, for example `color: blue;` every declaration block can have multiple declarations separated by a semicolon `;`.

Inline Styles Examples

- **Inline Styles:** CSS styles listed directly within the HTML body. To add inline styles, you need to add a `style` attribute to the element that you wish to style.
 - **Note:** We won't use inline styles frequently.

```
<h1 style="color:blue;background-color:hotpink">My favori  
te things</h1>
```

External Stylesheet Examples

- **External Stylesheet:** CSS styles listed in a separate `.css` file.
- Even though we can set inline styles for our HTML elements using the `style` attribute, it's best practice to list CSS styles in a separate file (with a `.css` extension) for these reasons:
 - We can set styles that apply to multiple elements.
 - When we separate our code into multiple files, it's easier to read and update.

Linking to an External Stylesheet from HTML Document

To tell an HTML document to use a `css/styles.css` file for your website's CSS styles, add a new `<link>` tag to the `<head>` tags of our document:

```
favorite-things.html
```

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en-US">
<head>
  <link href="css/styles.css" rel="stylesheet" type="text/css">
  <title>Michael's favorite things</title>
</head>
<body>
  ...
</body>
</html>
```

HTML Link elements direct our HTML document to load resources stored in separate files:

- To specify where the resource is located, we give a value to the `href` attribute that contains the path to our file. Our `href` attribute contains `css/styles.css` as the value, because *in relation to this favorite-things.html file*, the `styles.css` file is in a subdirectory named `css`.
 - If the `styles.css` file were in the same directory as the `favorite-things.html` file, then the link would just be to `"styles.css"` rather than to `"css/styles.css"`.
- To describe what type of resource we're loading we specify two additional attributes:
 - `rel` specifies the relationship of the resource to our HTML document. In this case, the external resource is a `stylesheet`!
 - `type` specifies the media type of the resource. We list `text/css` because our resource is a CSS stylesheet.

Example CSS Rules in an External Stylesheet

styles.css

```
h1 {  
  color: #0000ff;  
  text-align: center;  
}  
  
h2 {  
  font-style: italic;  
  text-align: center;  
}  
  
p {  
  font-family: sans-serif;  
}  
  
ul {  
  font-size: 20px;  
  line-height: 30px;  
}
```

In the code above...

- Each individual block is a **rule**.
- `h1`, `h2`, `p`, and `ul` are all **selectors**.
- `color`, `text-align`, `font-style`, `font-family`, `font-size` and `line-height` are all **properties**.
- `blue`, `center`, `italic`, `sans-serif`, `20px` and `30px` are all **values**.
- The entire file `styles.css` is a **stylesheet**.

Additional Resources

- W3School's CSS Reference
(<https://www.w3schools.com/css/default.asp>)
- MDN Web Doc's CSS Reference
(<https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/CSS>)
- CSS Zen Garden (<http://csszengarden.com/>)

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