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CSS The !important Rule

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What is !important?

The `!important` rule in CSS is used to add more importance to a property/value than normal.

In fact, if you use the `!important` rule, it will override ALL previous styling rules for that specific property on that element!

Let us look at an example:

Example

```
#myid {
  background-color: blue;
}

.myclass {
  background-color: gray;
}

p {
  background-color: red !important;
}
```

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Example Explained

In the example above. all three paragraphs will get a red background color, even though the ID selector and the class selector have a higher specificity. The `!important` rule overrides the `background-color` property in both cases.

Important About !important

The only way to override an `!important` rule is to include another `!important` rule on a declaration with the same (or higher) specificity in the source code - and here the problem starts! This makes the CSS code confusing and the debugging will be hard, especially if you have a large style sheet!

Here we have created a simple example. It is not very clear, when you look at the CSS source code, which color is considered most important:

Example

```css
#myid {
  background-color: blue !important;
}

.myclass {
  background-color: gray !important;
}

p {
  background-color: red !important;
}
```

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Tip: It is good to know about the `!important` rule. You might see it in some CSS source code. However, do not use it unless you absolutely have to.

Maybe One or Two Fair Uses of !important

One way to use `!important` is if you have to override a style that cannot be overridden in any other way. This could be if you are working on a Content Management System (CMS) and cannot edit the CSS code. Then you can set some custom styles to override some of the CMS styles.

Another way to use `!important` is: Assume you want a special look for all buttons on a page. Here, buttons are styled with a gray background color, white text, and some padding and border:

Example

```css
.button {
  background-color: #8c8c8c;
  color: white;
  padding: 5px;
  border: 1px solid black;
}
```

Try it Yourself »

The look of a button can sometimes change if we put it inside another element with higher specificity, and the properties get in conflict. Here is an example of this:

Example

```css
.button {
  background-color: #8c8c8c;
  color: white;
  padding: 5px;
  border: 1px solid black;
}

#myDiv a {
  color: red;
  background-color: yellow;
}
```

To "force" all buttons to have the same look, no matter what, we can add the
!important rule to the properties of the button, like this:

Example

```
.button {
  background-color: #8c8c8c !important;
  color: white !important;
  padding: 5px !important;
  border: 1px solid black !important;
}

#myDiv a {
  color: red;
  background-color: yellow;
}
```

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