

# The amazing powers of CSS




By [Ilmari Heikkinen](#)

Ilmari is a contributor to WebFundamentals

Yesterday at the office, we were coming up with strange and magical CSS tricks. Take this one for instance, it makes empty links very visible:

```
a[href = ""] {  
  background: red;  
  color: white;  
  font-size: x-large;  
}
```



Check out the [live example at jsFiddle](#) 

You can also style absolute links differently from relative links:

```
a[href ^= http] {  
  display: inline-block;  
  color: red;  
  transform: rotate(180deg);  
}
```



Check out the [live example at jsFiddle](#)

If you want to have a different style for links pointing out of your domain, you can use the `:not()` selector. This is actually how we do the little arrows next to external links at HTML5Rocks.

```
a[href ^= 'http']:not([href *= 'html5rocks.']) {  
  background: transparent url(arrow.png) no-repeat center right;  
  padding-right: 16px;  
}
```



Check out the [live example at jsFiddle](#)

Just to remind you that you're not limited to styling links, here's how to make all PNG images inverted:

```
img[src $= .png] {
  filter: invert(100%);
}
```



Moving on from attribute selectors, did you know that you can make the document head visible, along with the other elements there?

```
head {
  display: block;
  border-bottom: 5px solid red;
}
script, style, link {
  display: block;
  white-space: pre;
  font-family: monospace;
}
```



Or that you can use the awesome power of CSS attr-function to fill in the :after and :before content?

```
script:before {
  content: "<script src=\"" attr(src) "\" type=\"" attr(type) "\">";
}
script:after {
  content: "</script>";
}

style:before {
  content: "<style type=\"" attr(type) "\">";
}
style:after {
  content: "< /style>";
}

/* And for a finish, <link> */
link:before {
  content: "<link rel=\"" attr(rel) "\" type=\"" attr(type) "\" href=\"" attr(hre
```



Check out the [live example at jsFiddle](#) [↗](#)

Note that attr() reads in the attribute values of the matching element, so if you use it for #foo:before, it reads the attributes from #foo.

---

*Except as otherwise noted, the content of this page is licensed under the [Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 License](#), and code samples are licensed under the [Apache 2.0 License](#). For details, see our [Site Policies](#). Java is a registered trademark of Oracle and/or its affiliates.*

*Last updated July 2, 2018.*