Introduction to CSS

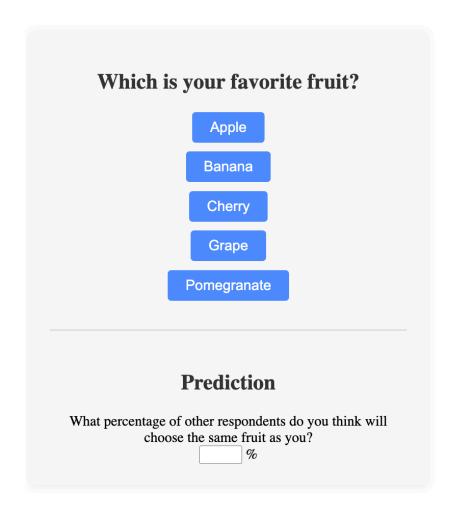
What is CSS?

- Cascading Style Sheets
- Controls the look and feel of web pages

Resources for Further Exploration

• MDN CSS Guide

Example: Poll Page Styling



Activity:

- Open the file poll.css in your code editor.
- Review the CSS selectors and properties in the file.

To see the effect in a browser:

- 1. Open poll_static_with_css.html in your code editor.
- 2. Preview the file in your browser (see HTML instructions for a reminder on how to open a file in the browser).
- 3. Notice how the appearance changes with CSS applied.

Key Features in the Example

External Stylesheet Structure

- CSS is kept in a separate .css file and linked in the HTML <head> .
- This keeps style and content separate for maintainability.
- The tag in the HTML <head> includes the CSS file.
- There are two other common ways to include CSS: inline styles and <style> tags in the HTML <head>.
 - these are less maintainable
 - we follow best practice in this course and won't use them

```
<head>
    <title>Poll Example</title>
    link rel="stylesheet" href="poll.css">
    </head>
```

Selectors and Properties

- Selectors target HTML elements by class, tag, or relationship.
 - with _poll-container , any element with class "poll-container" will have this style applied
- Properties define the visual style.
 - background is a color
 - padding adds space inside the border

```
.poll-container {
  background: #f9f9f9;
  border-radius: 8px;
  padding: 24px;
}
```

Limiting Scope of Styles

- poll-container ul styles only elements that are inside poll-container.
- list-style: none removes the default bullet points from the list.
- When asking copilot to style for you, you maay want to ask or request about which classes certain style should apply to.
 - Watch out for styles that overwrite other styles unintentionally!
 - Ask copilot for help in understanding which styles apply where.

```
.poll-container ul {
  list-style: none;
  padding: 0;
}
```

Styling Buttons

- cursor changes the cursor appearance when hovering on button
- transition makes the background color change smoothly on hover.
 - -- poll-container button:hover applies style when the mouse is over the item.

```
.poll-container button {
 padding: 8px 20px;
 font-size: 16px;
 border: none;
 border-radius: 4px;
 background: #4f8cff;
 color: #fff;
 cursor: pointer;
 transition: background 0.2s;
.poll-container button:hover {
 background: #357ae8;
```

5. Section Separators and Layout

- This style applies only to <section> elements that are immediately preceded by another <section>, with both inside _poll-container.
 - In our case, it adds the dividing line between sections.
 - If we had three sections, there would be a second dividing line automatically.

```
.poll-container section + section {
  border-top: 2px solid #e0e0e0;
  margin-top: 32px;
  padding-top: 24px;
}
```

6. Experiment!

- Try changing colors, spacing, or borders in poll.css.
- Don't forget to save the file each time and then reload the browser tab to see changes.