

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 `<link>` 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 may 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.