Difference between first-child and first-of-type selector in CSS

The :first-child pseudo-class matches a specified element that is the first child of its parent. You use it when you want to pick the first li tag within an ul

The :first-of-type selects the first element of the selectors. You use it when you want to pick the first element among a list like div.wrapper

To show you some instances:

Instance-1

# **CSS :first-child Selector**

Select and style every <i> element of every <p> element, where the <p> element is the first child of its parent:

p:first-child i {

background: yellow;

}

Select and style the first <li> element in lists:

li:first-child {

background: yellow;

}

# **CSS : first-of-type**

**Body p:first-child{**

**Font-weight:800;**

**}**

Instance-2

# **CSS :first-child Selector**

Select and style the first child element of every <ul> element:

li:first-child {

background: yellow;

}

# **CSS : first-of-type**

p:first-of-type{

font-style: italic;

}

Syntax:

# **CSS :first-child Selector**

:first-child{

css declarations;

}

# **CSS : first-of-type**

:first-of-type{

Css declarations;

}

Algorithm:

**Step-1:** first-of-type the selector can only be a type selector. That is, you can only refer directly to elements—like <p> or <h1>.

when using :first-of-type. So, if you had the following HTML

**Step-2:** The first-child pseudo-selector matches the first element in a particular context. For example, to select the first instance of a paragraph in the body, we could use.

first-of-type or nth-of-type above means that the paragraph could be preceded by any amount of markup or content, and still be affected by the style

**Step-3:** first-child selector will no longer select the paragraph.

**Step-4:** first-of-type: This selector is used to select the first child of the selected parent element. It matches the element type.

In the above example, **first-child:** it will select li of the second ul because the first ul’s first child is h3.

Multiple Approaches:

We have provided the solution in 3 different approaches.

1. By Using Static Input Value
2. By Using User Input Value
3. By Using User Defined Method

Let’s see the program along with its output one by one.

Approach-1:

In this approach one integer value will be initialized in the program and then by using the algorithm we can check whether a number is a disarium number or not.

Program:

<article>

<div>This `div` is first!</div>

<div>This <span>nested `span` is first</span>!</div>

<div>

This <em>nested `em` is first</em>, but this <em>nested `em` is last</em>!

</div>

<div>This <span>nested `span` gets styled</span>!</div>

<p>This `p` qualifies!</p>

<div>This is the final `div`.</div>

</article>

article :first-of-type {

background-color: pink;

}

p:first-of-type {

color: red;

font-style: italic;

}

p:first-child {

color: lime;

background-color: black;

padding: 5px;

}

Approach-2:

In this approach the user will be asked to take the input of an integer value and then by using the algorithm we can check whether a number is a disarium number or not.

Example:

ul li {

color: blue;

}

ul li:first-child {

color: red;

font-weight: bold;

}

Approach-3:

In this approach the user will be asked to take the input of an integer value and then we will call a user defined method by passing this input number as parameter.

Inside the method we will check whether a number is a disarium number or not by using the algorithm.

Program:

<div>

<p>This text is selected!</p>

<p>This text isn't selected.</p>

</div>

p:first-child {

color: lime;

background-color: black;

padding: 5px;

}

div {

height: 100px;

width: 200px; }

div:first-of-type {

background: purple;

color: white;

}

div span:first-of-type {

color: red;

text-decoration: underline;

background: lightblue;

}

In this article, we explored Difference between :first-child and :first-of-type selector in CSS by using three different approaches .