

CSS Selectors, Properties, and Values

Whereas HTML has **tags**, CSS has '**selectors**'. Selectors are the names given to styles in internal and external style sheets. In this CSS Beginner Tutorial we will be concentrating on **HTML selectors**, which are simply the names of HTML tags and are used to change the style of a specific tag.

For each selector there are '**properties**' inside **curly brackets**, which simply take the form of words such as **color**, **font-weight** or **background-color**.

A **value** is given to the property following a **colon** (NOT an 'equals' sign) and **semi-colons** separate the properties.

```
body {  
    font-size: 0.8em;  
    //this would make the font inside body 0.8 of the base browser font size  
    color: navy;  
}
```

This will apply the given values to the **font-size** and **color** properties to the **body** selector. So basically, when this is applied to an HTML document, text between the **body** tags (which is the content of the whole window) will be 0.8 ems in size and navy in colour.

Lengths and Percentages

There are many property-specific units for values used in CSS, but there are some general units that are used in a number of properties and it is worth familiarising yourself with these before continuing.

em (such as **font-size: 2em**) is the unit for the **calculated size of a font**. So "2em", for example, is two times the current font size.

px (such as **font-size: 12px**) is the unit for **pixels**.

pt (such as **font-size: 12pt**) is the unit for **points**.

% (such as **font-size: 80%**) is the unit for... wait for it... **percentages**.

Other units include **pc** (picas), **cm** (centimetres), **mm** (millimetres) and **in** (inches).

When a value is **zero**, you do not need to state a unit. For example, if you wanted to specify no border, it would be **border: 0**.