CSS Syntax
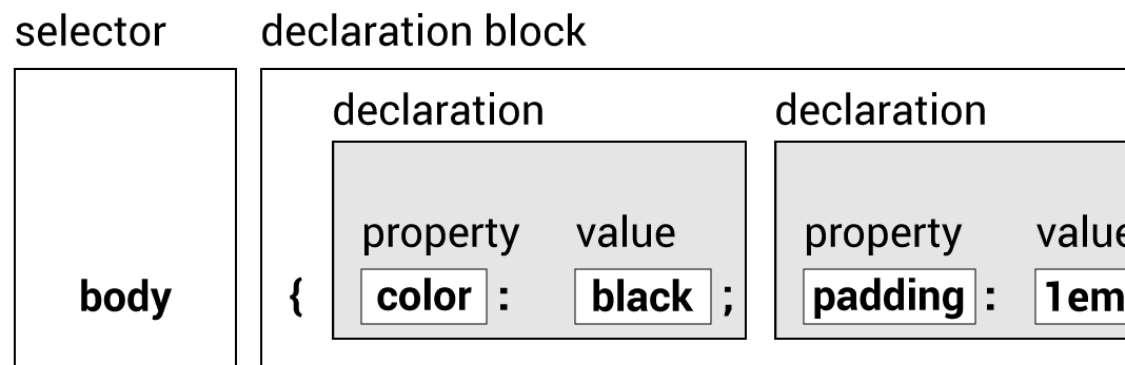

The syntax used in CSS includes the use of **properties**, **values**, selectors, declarations, declaration b and rulesets. The image above features a rule where every <body> element in a web document will ha

You can specify a CSS style in a document by creating a series of CSS **property** and **value** pairs, sep in a pair lists a CSS style attribute or property. The value gives the specific formatting value to be appl

The syntax is:

`property: value`

A **rule set** is comprised of a single **selector** followed by a **declaration block**. **At-rules** are similar to r an @ sign instead of a selector. Rulesets and at-rules are CSS statements.

What is a Selector?

A selector targets which HTML element or elements will be styled by CSS and include IDs, element na should know what these look like, although we will focus on the use of classes in this course. Click on more about selectors.

▸ **Classes**

A class selector will select HTML elements with a specific class attribute. To assign a cla inside of a tag, then use a period before the name, e.g., ".name" in the HTML code.

<u>Example 1:</u>
`<p class="center">This specifies a center-aligned paragraph.</p>`

▸ **Elements**

Element	applies to all occurrences of a named HTML element
ID	can only be used once within a page, e.g., for one paragraph, one h

At times, you will want to apply the same property to a number of elements. This can be accomplished
selectors. You can group selectors by separating each with a comma. Click on the following tab to se

▸ Grouping Selectors

Grouping selectors together will make file sizes smaller and future edits more efficient. F
than individual lines of code such as h1 { text-align: left; color: purple; }, h2 { text-align: le
text-align: left; color: purple; }, you can consolidate the code using the following:

Example 4:
```
h1, h2, p {
  text-align: left;
  color: purple;
}
```

When entered into the code tool at the bottom of this page, the CSS code in Example 4

```
1 /* Here the selectors are
  grouped:*/
2 h1, h2, p {
3   text-align: left;
4   color: purple;
5 }
6
```

You can see below how your code will take longer to write if you do not group selectors:

```
1 /* Here the selectors are
  NOT grouped:*/
2 h1 {
3   text-align: left;
4   color: purple;
5 }
6
7 h2 {
8   text-align: left;
```

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Declarations

Declarations make up the other part of a style sheet rule and provide rendering instructions. A declar property and a value, separated by a colon. There are many CSS properties, each addressing how to property accepts certain values, so it is important to know which values are acceptable for a particular following tabs to learn more about declarations and declaration blocks.

▸ Declaration Example

General rule example:

```
selector { property: value }
```

A selector, for instance, could be an <h1> tag with a declaration specifying the property (blue), as in the following rule.

Example 5:

```
h1 {color: blue;}
```
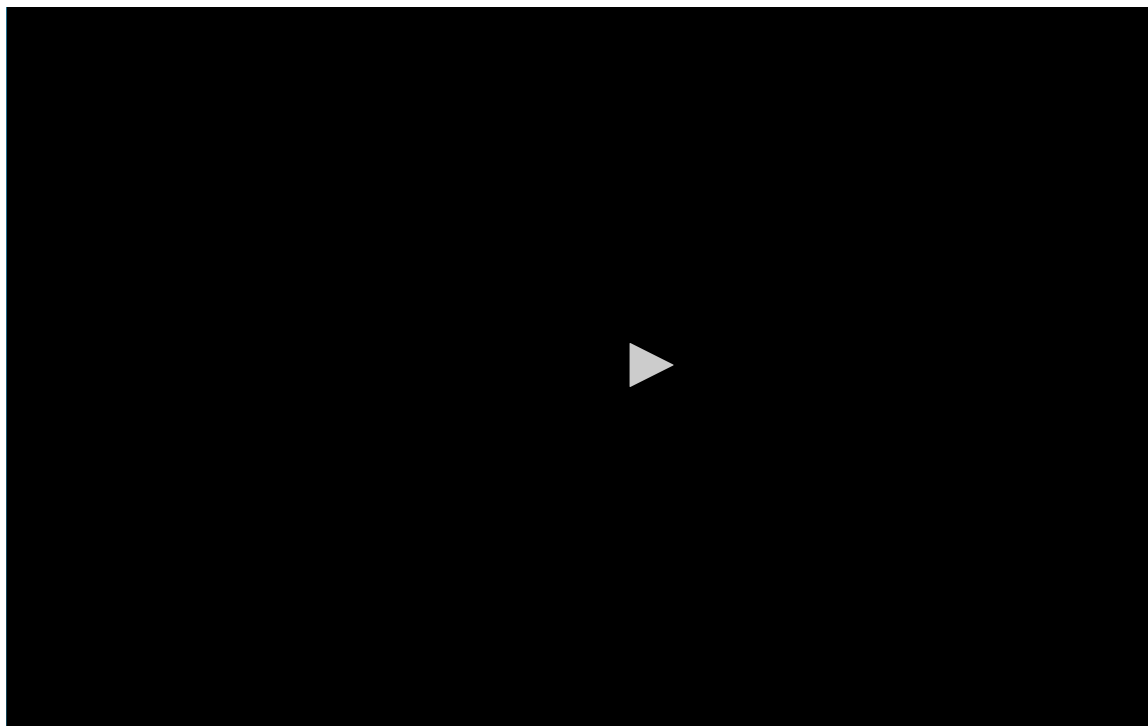
The last rule listed in a declaration or a declaration block will take precedence over the declarations tha
the rules are of identical weight otherwise.

Example 7:

```
p {color: green;}
p {color: red;}
p {color: black;}
```

In the example above, the rule for the color black will override the other color rules for the <p> tags wri

Video: Using the Code Mirror Tool

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Exercise: CSS Syntax

In this exercise, we will see how HTML and CSS work in combination when we create a stylesheet. Cli
Exercise tab to begin.

▸ **CSS Syntax Exercise**

For this exercise, we will use the code introduced in Example 4 and modify it. Follow the
experiment with color and selectors.

The default code shown in the code tool at the bottom of this page appears in the **index**

instruct the browser to "style" the HTML elements.

```html
1 <!DOCTYPE html>
2 <html>
3   <head>
4     <link rel="stylesheet" href="/styles.css" />
5   </head>
6   <body>
7     <h1>Grouping Selectors</h1>
8     <h2>An h1 heading in purple</h2>
9     <p>Some text, also in purple</p>
10  </body>
11 </html>
```

Grouping Select

An h1 heading in pur

Some text, also in purple

3. Click on the **styles.css** tab above the code tool. Enter the code from Example 4 ex
the available space. Then hit **Run Code**. The following image shows how the CSS
render once the **Run Code** button is clicked on:

```html
1 <!DOCTYPE html>
2 <html>
3   <head>
4     <link rel="stylesheet" href="/styles.css" />
5   </head>
6   <body>
7     <h1>Grouping Selectors</h1>
8     <h2>An h1 heading in purple</h2>
9     <p>Some text, also in purple</p>
10  </body>
11 </html>
```

Grouping Selec

An h1 heading in pu

Some text, also in purple

4. Congratulations, you have just completed your first stylesheet in CSS!

3. Click on **Run Code** and you should see the following. Notice how the **center** value
by centering it and the **navy** value has changed the color of the text.

```
1 <!DOCTYPE html>
2 <html>
3   <head>
4     <link rel="stylesheet"
   href="/styles.css" />
5   </head>
6   <body>
7     <h1>Grouping
   Selectors</h1>
8 <h2>An h1 heading</h2>
9 <p>Some text</p>
10   </body>
11 </html>
```

Grouping Sele

An h1 headin

Some text

Run Code Save Export Reset

index.html   styles.css   scripts.js

```
1  <html>
2    <head>
3      <link rel="stylesheet" href="./styles.css" />
4    </head>
5    <body>
6      <div class="testClass" onclick="clickThis()"> test body</div>
7    </body>
8  </html>
9
10
11
```