Theory: HTML attributes id and class

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Creating web pages is not rocket science, but neither is it a piece of cake, so sometimes you face situations that are really difficult to solve. You may even start to think that there is no way out of them!

For example, how do you change the style of one particular tag if there is a hundred of the same tags in the HTML markup of the web page? Or how do you apply the same style to a lot of different elements without having to duplicate the CSS code and wrap these elements in a new tag?

However, there are no problems without solutions, even in the IT industry. The two problems we brought up can easily confuse a beginner developer, but we will prove it to you that sometimes difficult tasks have very simple solutions

For more flexible management of the web page elements design there are HTML attributes `id` and `class`. They are needed to *identify* the elements. Let's take a look at the features of these attributes, see what they have in common, how they differ and how to work with them.

§1. id attribute

In order to work with a particular element when there are many similar ones, you need to endow it with a unique identifier using the `id` attribute. It gives you the opportunity to come up with a name for the selected element; the `id` attribute takes this name as a value. Here is a syntax example:

```
1    <h1 id="title">Good Morning!</h1>
```

In this example, `title` is the unique name of the element. Styles can now be applied to this element not through the tag selector, but through the value of the `id` attribute.

To work with this attribute efficiently, keep in mind a few things:

- When creating a unique name, you can use only Latin alphabet characters (A-Z, a-z), numbers, hyphens, and underscores. For example, names `Navbar`, `nav_item` and `margin-b-40` will be correct.
- The `id` name should not contain spaces. That is, names like `our products` will not be valid.
- The `id` can be used for only one element; you will not be able to work with multiple elements that have identifiers with the same name.
- Identifiers are case-sensitive: `id="FirstHeader"` and `id="firstheader"` are different identifiers.

§2. Class attribute

When you need to give many different elements the same look, `class` attribute comes in handy. As a value, it takes any name you come up with. Unlike the `id` attribute, a web page can have many elements with the same value for the `class` attribute. Consider an example:

```
1    <h1 class="blue">Desired job:</h1>
2    <p class="blue">Frontend developer</p>
3    <h2 class="blue">My skills:</h2>
4    <p class="blue">I know HTML and CSS</p>
```

In this example, `h1`, `h2` and two `p` tags have the same class – `blue`. This is very convenient because now you don't need to fiddle with each element individually through tag selectors; it is enough to specify the style only for `class`.

You can apply several classes to one element. To do this, you just need to write the names of the classes separated by a space. It will look like this:

Current topic:

Topic depends on:

Topic is required for:

Table of contents:

```
1    <p class="black big-text">Hi!</p>
```

In this example, the p element has two classes at once: `black` and `big-text`.

The rules for naming `class` are exactly the same as for `id`: when creating a name, use only Latin characters (A-Z, a-z), numbers, hyphens, and underscores. Do not use spaces and keep in mind case sensitivity.

§3. Conclusion

Next time when you face a problem like that, do not clog the code – often there is a simpler solution that lies on the surface. Understanding this will help you a great deal with creating web pages. Hopefully, now the tasks associated with the identification of elements will not confuse you since you know that they only seem scary at first glance.

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