Theory: CSS Selectors

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A **selector** points to an element or group of elements to which styles will be applied.

CSS technology does not limit you to using only a single selector: you can use multiple! There are several basic types that allow us to flexibly change the appearance of web pages. In this topic, you will learn about some of these basic CSS selectors.

§1. CSS element Selector

CSS element Selectors are the most elementary and easy-to-use selectors. Their essence is the following: as a selector you use the name of the HTML element to which you want to apply the style.

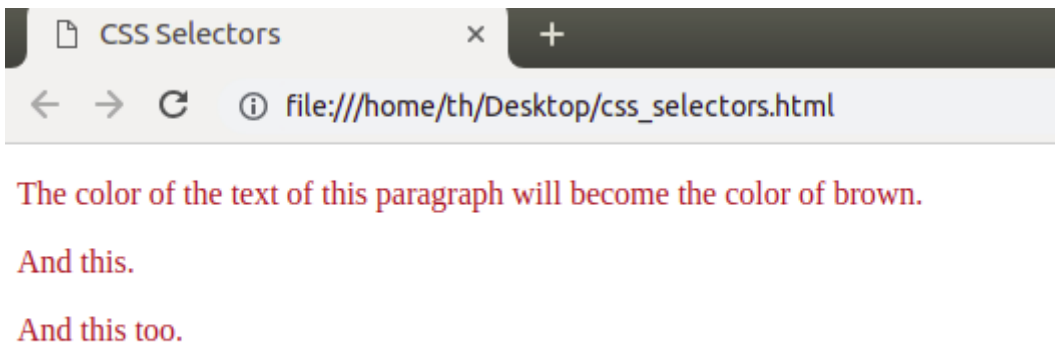
At the same time, if there are several elements in the layout of your web page indicated by this tag, then styles will be applied to all of them. Let's see what it looks like on an example:

```
p {
  color: brown;
}
```

This CSS code tells you that text in all paragraphs will be brown-colored. We apply it to an HTML document that contains the following lines:

```
<p>The color of the text of this paragraph will become the color of brown.
</p>
<p>And this.</p>
<p>And this too.</p>
```

The resulting page will look like this:



As you can see, the style is applied to all HTML elements `p` on the web page.

§2. CSS id Selector

CSS id Selector is used if you need to work with a specific element when there are many similar elements. It takes its name from the value of the `id` attribute of the HTML tag you need. A symbol `#` is placed in front of it so that the browser understands that this is an id selector.

For example, let's select the first paragraph on the page and increase its font. Here's CSS code:

```
#big {
  font-size: 30px;
}
```

And this is HTML code:

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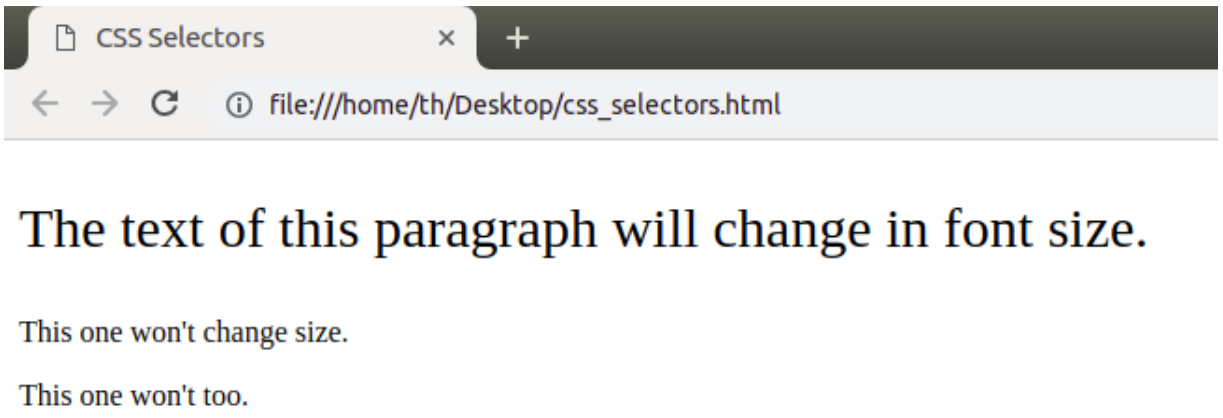
```
<p id="big">The text of this paragraph will change in font size.</p>
<p>This one won't change size.</p>
<p>This one won't too.</p>
```

In the browser, our page will look like this:



The styles were applied only to the HTML tag with the `id` attribute.

§3. CSS class Selector

CSS class Selector is useful when you need to give a lot of different elements the same look. The name of the selector is taken from the value of the `class` attribute of the desired HTML tag. A dot `.` is placed in front of it so that the browser understands that this is a class selector.

Let's consider an example: say we want to apply the same background color (blue) to several different elements.

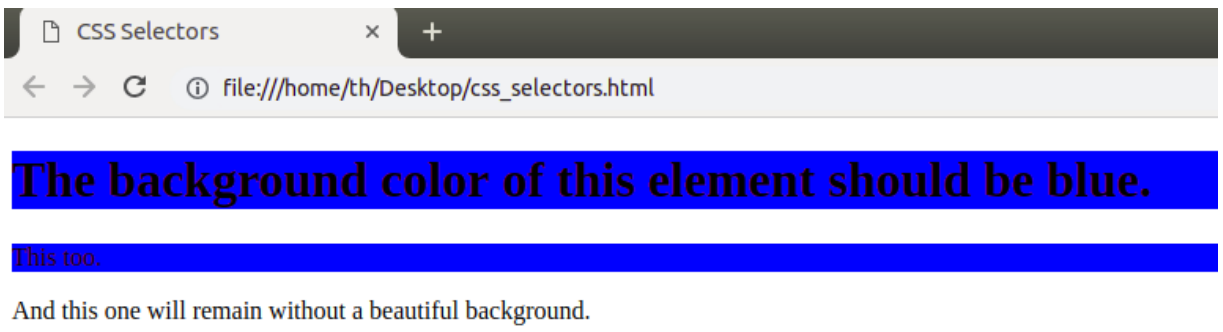
CSS code:

```
.blue {
  background-color: blue;
}
```

HTML code:

```
<h1 class="blue">The background color of this element should be blue.</h1>
<p class="blue">This too.</p>
<p>And this one will remain without a beautiful background.</p>
```

In the browser, our page will look like this:



The styles were applied only to the HTML tags with the `class` attribute.

As you can see, the selectors open up a variety of possibilities for the design of your web page content. We can honestly say that selectors are among the most important elements of CSS.

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