

# CSS At-Rules

In this lesson, you will learn about the famous and very handy CSS @ rules.  
Let's begin!



## **CSS: *The Famous @rules***



Just like most of the programming languages allow using pragmas to instruct the parser to handle special language elements, CSS defines directives for the same purpose.

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*You can easily recognize them because they start with an at character (@), and thus they are often mentioned as “at-rules”.*

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The table below lists them as follows:

At-Rule	Description
@charset	<p>With this CSS directive you can specify the character encoding used in the style sheet. It can be used only within a style sheet file, but not within the &lt;style&gt; elements or in the style attribute. To define the encoding, you must use one of the web-safe encoding that is declared in the IANA-registry (see <a href="http://www.iana.org/assignments/character-sets">http://www.iana.org/assignments/character-sets</a> for details). Here are a few examples:</p> <pre>@charset UTF-8; @charset "ISO-8859-2"</pre> <p>There are a few restrictions to use the @charset at-rule: this directive must be the first element in the style sheet, and not be preceded by any character. If several @charset at-rules are defined, only the first one is used.</p>
@import	<p>This at-rule allows you to import style rules from other style sheets. To define the style sheets to be imported, add a string or URL after the @import keyword, such as in these samples:</p> <pre>@import url("content/mystyle.css"); @import 'custom.css';</pre> <p>You can additionally include media queries (you'll learn about them later). For example to import a style sheet that should be used only when printing a web page, use this at-rule:</p> <pre>@import 'styleForPrint.css' print;</pre>
@font-face	<p>This at-rule allows designers to specify online fonts to display text on their web pages. By allowing them to provide their own fonts, @font-face eliminates the need to depend on the limited number of fonts users have installed on their computers. You will learn more details about this at-rule in <a href="#">Chapter 10</a>.</p>
@namespace	<p>This at-rule defines the XML namespaces that will be used in the style sheet. See more details in the <a href="#">MDN documentation</a>.</p>
@page	<p>You can use this at-rule to modify some CSS properties when printing a document. You can only change the margins, orphans, widows, and page breaks of the document; attempts to change any other CSS properties will be ignored. See more details in the <a href="#">MDN documentation</a>.</p>
@media	<p>This CSS at-rule associates a set of nested statements, in a CSS block, with a condition defined by a media query. You can use this directive to define styles that should be used only with the media types that satisfy the specified condition. You will learn more details about this at-rule <a href="#">later in this chapter</a>.</p>

In the *next lesson*, we'll get to know the concept of cascading.