

Rems

I call `rem`, the root `em`. Assuming the “r” comes from the word, “root”. While this may not be the general way people describe the `rem` unit, it will help you form great mental models.

The `em` unit scales against the font-size of the parent element, BUT the `rem` unit will only scale against the `root` element.

The `root` element here is usually, the `html` element.

Let’s see an example:

If you wrote this:

```
html {  
  font-size: 14px;  
}
```



Anywhere in your style where you use the `rem` unit, it will scale against the `14px` you have set on the `root` element i.e `html`

Bring back the markup used earlier:

```
<!DOCTYPE>  
<html>  
  <head>  
    <title>  
      The Problem with the EM unit.  
    </title>  
  </head>  
  <body>  
    <div class="one">  
      One Hello World!  
    <div class="two">  
      Two Hello World  
    <div class="three">  
      Three Hello World  
    </div>  
  </div>  
</div>
```



```
</div>
</body>
</html>
```

Regardless of the font-size you use, the nested elements will only scale against the root element.

```
.one {
  font-size: 1.5rem
}
```



The font-size here would be $1.5 * 14\text{px}$. i.e 21px.

And this:

```
.two {
  font-size: 1.5rem
}
```



Yes, the same thing. $1.5 * 14\text{px}$. i.e 21px.

The same goes for `.three`.

No weird behaviour, right?