Baseline Style Sheet

In this lesson, our front-end web dev journey takes us to the door step of the baseline style sheet. Let's begin!

WE'LL COVER THE FOLLOWING ∧

- A simple CSS reset style sheet

As you already learned, browsers apply their own styles to tags. The HTML standard does not specify any of this formatting. It is up to web browser vendors to add this formatting to make basic HTML more readable. Even though browsers treat all tags nearly the same, they don't treat them identically, and they assign different default style settings to them.

The style sheet you apply to your web pages defines the properties set on various HTML elements. These style rules generally set visual properties in addition to default style settings in browsers. But, provided that the default browser settings are different, the styled web page may be different as well.

To cope with the potential issue of different default settings,

baseline settings for each element.

For example, different browsers assign the `<h1>`, `<h2>`, …, and `<h6>` elements to different sizes and margins. By assigning your own size and margins to headings, you can standardize their appearance in all browsers.

The simplest approach (and the easiest to maintain) is to create a baseline set of rules for all elements and to load those rules in the first style sheet you attach to a document.

Although you can find standard sets of baseline rules on the Internet, often it is enough to use the concept of **CSS reset**, an approach that erases browser styling to remove the differences in built-in browser formatting.

Here is a simple CSS reset style sheet:

A simple CSS reset style sheet

```css
html, body, div, dl, dt, dd, ul, ol,
li, h1, h2, h3, h4, h5, h6, pre,
form, fieldset, input, p, blockquote,
th,td {
  margin: 0;
  padding: 0;
}
table {
  border-collapse: collapse;
  border-spacing: 0;
}
fieldset, img { border: 0; }
address,caption,cite,code,dfn,em,
strong,th,var {
  font-style: normal;
   font-weight: normal;
}
ol,ul {
  margin: 1em 0;
  margin-left: 40px;
  padding-left:0;
}
ul { list-style-type: disc; }
ol { list-style-type: decimal; }
caption,th { text-align: left; }
h1, h2, h3, h4, h5, h6 { font-size:100%; }
```

A CSS Reset Style Sheet in Action

There are more sophisticated solutions to set up a baseline style sheet, but in most cases using this simple CSS reset is enough.

In the next lesson, we will touch upon the concept of the cascading order.