The '&' Operator

In this lesson, we'll be looking at the ampersand ('&') operator syntax.

Definition

The ampersand `&` operator is often used when *nesting* in SASS and is an extremely useful feature.

It can be a great time-saver, especially if you happen to be coding your stylesheets with the BEM methodology, or using any systematic naming convention for your class names.

Example

See the following HTML:

```html
<button class = "btn btn--red"> Click me! </button>
```

Typical styling would be something like this:

Output

HTML

CSS (SCSS)

```scss
.btn {
  display: inline-block;
  padding: 15px 32px;
}
.btn--red {
  background-color: #ff0000; // Red
```

```
}
.btn:hover {

  background-color: #fff; // White
}
```

With the `&` operator we can be much more efficient:

Output
HTML
CSS (SCSS)

```scss
.btn {
  display: inline-block;
  padding: 15px 32px;
  &--red {
    background-color: #ff0000; // Red
  }
  &:hover {
    background-color: #fff; // White
  }
}
```

Notice that we've now nested the child selectors that use the same `.btn` name, represented by the `&` operator. name.

When compiled the `&` operator will be replaced by its enclosing selector name!

Next up we'll learn about control directives.