

Adjusting Text

In this lesson, we'll learn how to adjust text.

WE'LL COVER THE FOLLOWING ^

- Styling column text

To emphasize textual information in the fish catalog table, the name column should be stronger than the description column.

Styling column text

You have a few ways to style columns.

First, you can assign a class to columns defined for the table. If you open the `index.html` file, you can see that the table definition contains a `<colgroup>` definition:

```
<table class="fish-table">
  <!-- ... -->
  <colgroup>
    <col class="image" />
    <col class="name" />
    <col class="desrc" />
  </colgroup>
  <!-- ... -->
</table>
```



Each `<col>` definition has an associated class that can be set to define column-specific style attributes.

For example, to define the style for the Name column, add property declarations to the `.name` rule.

Unfortunately, you can specify only properties that belong to the column itself. You cannot set properties that influence the visual appearance of cells in the particular column.

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For example, you can change the width and background color of the column, but you cannot set the alignment of the text in the cells of the column.

Second, you can assign the same class to all cells belonging to the column as assigned to the corresponding `<col>` tag, and this way cell-level styling will work. However, it requires every cell being set with the appropriate class attribute.

A **third** way is using the `:nth-child()` pseudo-class selector to define the set of `<td>` tags that belong to a specific column. To define a set of columns, you must know the ordinal number of the column you want to style.

Each method has its own **pros and cons**. I've opted for the third one, because it seems appropriate for this table. Add these definitions to the **style.css** file to define additional text properties for the name and description columns:

```
.fish-table tr td:nth-child(2) {  
  font-family: "Segoe UI Semibold", Arial, sans-serif;;  
}  
  
.fish-table tr td:nth-child(3) {  
  font-size: 0.9em;  
  padding-top: 12px;  
}
```



The first selector specifies the set of second `<td>` tags within the table rows, and by definition these cells compose the second column. The second selector works similarly, but it defines the cells of the third table column. The image below shows how these changes are applied to the table cells.



**Bornella
anguilla**

The Bornella anguilla, growing up to 80mm. It has a very characteristic mosaic-like color pattern. Its name [anguilla = eel] refers to its method of swimming.

Font changes are applied to cells

It would be great, if the name column could be a bit wider. You can set either

a precise width or set the minimum width of this column, and let the column be wider as the browser window is enlarged. The easiest way would be to extend the style definition of the second column with the `min-width` property:

```
.fish-table tr td:nth-child(2) {  
  font-family: "Segoe UI Semibold", Arial, sans-serif;;  
  min-width: 160px;  
}
```

Instead of doing this, try adding this style definition:

```
.name {  
  min-width: 140px;  
}
```

Here the `.name` selector applies to the “name” class that is assigned to the second column’s definition within `<colgroup>` and demonstrates a column property.

The Name and Description columns should both be aligned to the top. Add the following property declarations to the selectors defining the cells of these columns:

```
.fish-table tr td:nth-child(2) {  
  font-family: "Segoe UI Semibold", Arial, sans-serif;;  
  min-width: 160px;  
  vertical-align: top;  
  padding-top: 12px;  
}  
  
.fish-table tr td:nth-child(3) {  
  font-size: 0.9em;  
  vertical-align: top;  
  padding-top: 12px;  
}
```

These settings align the texts in the cell to the top and provide space between the top border and the text. When you display the table with these settings, you can see that the text in the Name and Description columns are not aligned properly, as shown below:

Name	Description
<u>Powder-blue surgeon</u>	<u>The powder blue</u> surgeonfish

Text alignment is not proper

The cause of this issue is that these columns use different fonts and font sizes. The text would look nice if the baselines were aligned. Fortunately, CSS provides a `baseline` value for the `vertical-align` property.

So, change the top values to baseline, and remove the `padding-top` property from the third column:

```
.fish-table tr td:nth-child(2) {  
  font-family: "Segoe UI Semibold", Arial, sans-serif;;  
  min-width: 160px;  
  vertical-align: baseline;  
  padding-top: 12px;  
}  
  
.fish-table tr td:nth-child(3) {  
  font-size: 0.9em;  
  vertical-align: baseline;  
}
```

As you can see, the text in the columns is displayed exactly as you expect (image shown below).

Name	Description
<u>Powder-blue surgeon</u>	<u>The powder blue</u> surgeonfish

In the *next lesson*, we will set up table-specific properties.