

How Default Browser Styles Affect a Document

Just before we begin building fun projects, you should be aware that your styles aren't the only styles at play. Most browsers have a default implementation control a default set of styles already applied to the HTML elements.

There are way over 40 browsers in the world. I was curious so I checked Wikipedia. Some aren't popular, but you get the gist.

Your users can be on any browser, and you do not have a control over what browsers they choose to use.

While I would advise that you do not concern yourself with cross-browser issues when you begin with CSS, it is important to know that browsers by default have some styling on **all** `html` elements.

To describe this, consider the simple `html` document below

Output
HTML
CSS (SCSS)

Heading 1

Heading 2

Heading 3

Heading 4

Heading 5

Heading 6

Paragraph - Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, [link](#)! Consectetur adipisicing elit. Nisi voluptatem dignissimos non totam id, cum doloribus minima illum sequi provident similique ipsam porro ducimus animi nemo ipsum corporis aliquid culpa.

Paragraph - Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipisicing elit. Nisi voluptatem dignissimos [another link](#)! Non totam id, cum doloribus minima illum sequi provident similique ipsam porro ducimus animi nemo ipsum corporis aliquid culpa.

- unordered list
- unordered lis
- unordered lis

1. ordered list
2. ordered list
3. ordered list



In the code tab above, there is NO CSS applied. Just plain old `html`. However, the `html` elements are styled - by default.

There are No colors or any fancy stuff, but at a quick glance you'll notice that the **headers are bold**. The headers reduce in size from `h1` to `h6`. **The paragraphs have some space** around them by default. **The links are blue** and also underlined.

We didn't write any of this. But there they are, magically.

Well, not so. Browsers have some default styling applied to `html` elements. This explains why we have all that styling.

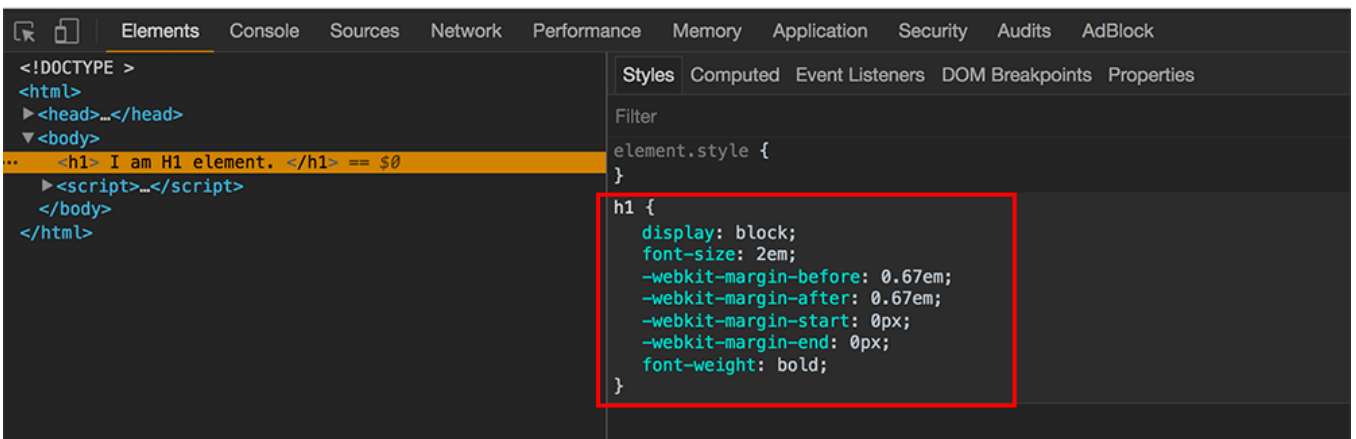
In practice, you'll need to override some of these default styles. You may not

want your links to be blue, or the header in a certain size.

So when you begin working on styling a document, don't be put off when you see stuff you didn't put there. They may likely be from the browser being used.

Ever used the chrome developer tools? Using a tool like this can prove very helpful. Below is a screenshot that shows the default styling from the Chrome browser on an `h1` element. **They are typically called user agent styles.**

I am H1 element.



sample user agent style from the chrome developer tools