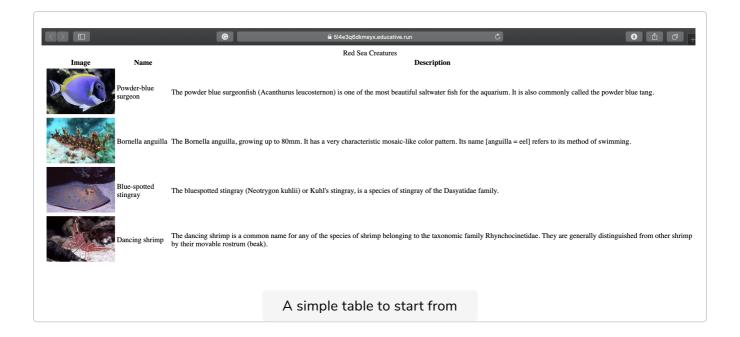# Styling Tables

In Chapter 3, you learned that HTML tables were used for a long time to establish table layout. You also learned that HTML5 tables should be used for what they were created: to display tabular data. In this section, you are going to learn a few basic things to style your tables with CSS.

> 📄**NOTE:** Over the next few lessons, we will gradually improve the aesthetics of this HTML table using certain CSS features. We will learn only a few new CSS properties. The emphasis here is on the ease of combining separate CSS features into a nice design by only modifying the style sheet, as you will experience soon.

In order to demonstrate the fundamentals, you are about to get to know, you will start from a simple, unformatted table that can be found in the Exercise-10-24 folder.

Exercise-10-24

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
  <title>Tables</title>
  <link href="style.css" rel="stylesheet" />
</head>
<body>
  <table>
    <caption >Red Sea Creatures</caption>
    <colgroup>
      <col class="name" />
      <col class="image" />
```

```
        <col class="desrc" />
      </colgroup>
      <thead>
        <tr>
          <th scope="col">Image</th>
          <th scope="col">Name</th>
          <th scope="col">Description</th>
        </tr>
      </thead>
      <tbody>
        <tr>
          <td>
            <img src="/Images/fish_001.jpg" width="150" height="100" />
          </td>
          <td>Powder-blue surgeon</td>
          <td>
            The powder blue surgeonfish (Acanthurus leucosternon)
            is one of the most beautiful saltwater fish for the aquarium.
            It is also commonly called the powder blue tang.
          </td>
        </tr>
        <tr>
          <td>
            <img src="Images/nudib_001.jpg" width="150" height="100" />
          </td>
          <td>Bornella anguilla</td>
          <td>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.
          </td>
        </tr>
        <tr>
          <td>
            <img src="Images/ray_001.jpg" width="150" height="100" />
          </td>
          <td>Blue-spotted stingray</td>
          <td>
            The bluespotted stingray (Neotrygon kuhlii) or Kuhl's
            stingray, is a species of stingray of the Dasyatidae family.
          </td>
        </tr>
        <tr>
          <td>
            <img src="Images/shrimp_001.jpg" width="150" height="100" />
          </td>
          <td>Dancing shrimp</td>
          <td>
            The dancing shrimp is a common name for any of the
            species of shrimp belonging to the taxonomic family
            Rhynchocinetidae. They are generally distinguished
            from other shrimp by their movable rostrum (beak).
          </td>
        </tr>
      </tbody>
    </table>
  </body>
</html>
```

This project displays a three-column table, as shown below:

Image	Name	Description
	Powder-blue surgeon	The powder blue surgeonfish (Acanthurus leucosternon) is one of the most beautiful saltwater fish for the aquarium. It is also commonly called the powder blue tang.
	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.
	Blue-spotted stingray	The bluespotted stingray (Neotrygon kuhlii) or Kuhl's stingray, is a species of stingray of the Dasyatidae family.
	Dancing shrimp	The dancing shrimp is a common name for any of the species of shrimp belonging to the taxonomic family Rhynchocinetidae. They are generally distinguished from other shrimp by their movable rostrum (beak).

A simple table to start from

The only thing that saves this table from being boring is the set of pictures in the first column, and frankly, it needs a few tweaks to give it a neat design.

The content of the table is wrapped into the `<table>` tag, where `<caption>` defines a title for the table and `<colgroup>` lists column definitions. The header section of the table is wrapped into the `<thead>` element, while the real data behind the table is nested into `<tbody>`.

As you see from Exercise-10-24, the index.html file links the style.css style sheet; so during the styling, you have to add all rules to the style.css file.

In the *next lesson*, we will learn basic fonts and colors.