



SPECIFICITY

APRIL 2022

YONATAN BENEZRA

- DO NOT DISTRIBUTE –

- DO NOT COPY – ALL RIGHTS RESERVED TO THE
AUTHOR –

Specificity

What will happen if we combine the following HTML:

```
<div id="container" class="green-text-div">What color will I be?</div>
```

With the following CSS:

```
div {  
  color: blue;  
}  
.green-text-div {  
  color: green;  
}  
#container {  
  color: orange;  
}
```

Try it out and see for yourself!

Can you explain the results?

It is caused by the fact that each selector has a level of specificity. See the below list, starting from least specific:

- Element Selectors (least specific)
- Class and Attribute Selectors
- ID Selectors
- Chained selectors
- Inline Styles

We can use a "style" attribute in HTML, as follows:

```
<div style="background-color: orange;" id="about" class="about-container">  
</div>
```

Important!

This selector overrides all other styles.

- Position within the File

When two conflicting style rules have the same specificity, the one that is defined lower down in your CSS file will override the other.

This rule will apply across multiple files as well.

If you link several CSS files to your HTML page, the links further down the page will be more specific.

If one selector conflicts with another, the one with the highest level of specificity will win. Therefore, the best practice is to use the least specific selectors first.