

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [<HOT>Learn CSS {Cascading Style Sheets} Basics -to- Professional </HOT>](#)

Sugawara - March 20, 2012, 6:14 am

Cascading Style Sheets

What is CSS?

CSS stands for Cascading Style Sheets
Styles define how to display HTML elements
Styles were added to HTML 4.0 to solve a problem
External Style Sheets can save a lot of work
External Style Sheets are stored in CSS files

The syntax for CSS is different than that of (X)HTML markup. Though it is not too confusing, once you take a look at it. It consists of only 3 parts.

Code selector { property: value }

The selector is the (X)HTML element that you want to style. The property is the actual property title, and the value is the style you apply to that property.

Each selector can have multiple properties, and each property within that selector can have independent values. The property and value are separated with a colon and contained within curly brackets. Multiple properties are separated by a semi colon. Multiple values within a property are separated by commas, and if an individual value contains more than one word you surround it with quotation marks. As shown below.

```
Code body {  
  background: #eee;  
  font-family: "Trebuchet MS", Verdana, Arial, serif;  
}
```

As you can see in the above code I have separated the color from the font-family with a semi-colon, separated the various fonts with commas and contained the "Trebuchet MS" within quotation marks. The final result sets the body color to light grey, and sets the font to ones that most users will have installed on their computer.

I have changed the way I layout my code, but you can arrange it in one line if you choose. I find that it is more readable if I spread each property to a separate line, with a 2 space indentation.

Inheritance

When you nest one element inside another, the nested element will inherit the properties assigned to the containing element. Unless you modify the inner elements values independently.

For example, a font declared in the body will be inherited by all text in the file no matter the containing element, unless you declare another font for a specific nested element.

```
Code body {font-family: Verdana, serif;}
```

Now all text within the (X)HTML file will be set to Verdana.

If you wanted to style certain text with another font, like an h1 or a paragraph then you could do the following.

```
Code h1 {font-family: Georgia, sans-serif;}
p {font-family: Tahoma, serif;}
```

Now all <h1> tags within the file will be set to Georgia and all <p> tags are set to Tahoma, leaving text within other elements unchanged from the body declaration of Verdana.

There are instances where nested elements do not inherit the containing elements properties.

For example, if the body margin is set to 20 pixels, the other elements within the file will not inherit the body margin by default.

```
Code body {margin: 20px;}
Combining Selectors
```

You can combine elements within one selector in the following fashion.

```
Code h1, h2, h3, h4, h5, h6 {
  color: #009900;
  font-family: Georgia, sans-serif;
}
```

As you can see in the above code, I have grouped all the header elements into one selector. Each one is separated by a comma. The final result of the above code sets all headers to green and to the specified font. If the user does not have the first font I declared it will go to another sans-serif font the user has installed on their computer.

Comment tags

Comments can be used to explain why you added certain selectors within your css file. So as to help others who may see your file, or to help you remember what you we're thinking at a later date. You can add comments that will be ignored by browsers in the following manner.

```
Code /* This is a comment */
```

You will note that it begins with a / (forward slash) and than an (asterisks) then the comment, then the closing tag which is just backward from the opening tag (asterisks) then the / (forward slash).

The class selector allows you to style items within the same (X)HTML element differently. Similiar to what I mentioned in the introduction about inline styles. Except with classes the style can be overwritten by changing out stylesheets. You can use the same class selector again and again within an (X)HTML file.

To put it more simply, this sentence you are reading is defined in my CSS file with the following.

```
Code p {
  font-size: small;
  color: #33
}
```

Pretty simple, but lets say that I wanted to change the word "sentence" to green bold text, while leaving the rest of the sentence untouched. I would do the following to my (X)HTML file.

```
Code <p>
```

To put it more simply, this sentence you are reading is styled in my CSS file by the following.

```
</p>
```

Then in my CSS file I would add this style selector:

```
Code .greenboldtext{
  font-size: small;
  color: #008080;
  font-weight: bold;
}
```

The final result would look like the following:

To put it more simply, this sentence you are reading is styled in my CSS file by the following.

Please note that a class selector begins with a (.) period. The reason I named it “greenboldtext” is for example purposes, you can name it whatever you want. Though I do encourage you to use selector names that are descriptive. You can reuse the “greenboldtext” class as many times as you want.

IDs are similar to classes, except once a specific id has been declared it cannot be used again within the same (X)HTML file.

I generally use IDs to style the layout elements of a page that will only be needed once, whereas I use classes to style text and such that may be declared multiple times.

The main container for this page is defined by the following.

```
Code <div id="container">
Everything within my document is inside this division.
</div>
```

I have chosen the id selector for the “container” division over a class, because I only need to use it one time within this file.

Then in my CSS file I have the following:

```
Code #container{
  width: 80%;
  margin: auto;
  padding: 20px;
  border: 1px solid #666;
  background: #ff;
}
```

You will notice that the id selector begins with a (#) number sign instead of a (.) period, as the class selector does.

Ok so you have finished the first 4 chapters in my series. You have learned the very basics of CSS, how the syntax works and a bit about classes and IDs. Now we are gonna take a quick break from CSS and focus on the (X)HTML side of using it.

Divisions

Divisions are a block level (X)HTML element used to define sections of an (X)HTML file. A division can contain all the parts that make up your website. Including additional divisions, spans, images, text and so on.

You define a division within an (X)HTML file by placing the following between the <body></body> tags:

```
Code <div>
Site contents go here
</div>
```

Though most likely you will want to add some style to it. You can do that in the following fashion:

```
Code <div id="container">
Site contents go here
</div>
```

The CSS file contains this:

```
Code #container{
width: 70%;
margin: auto;
padding: 20px;
border: 1px solid #666;
background: #fff;
}
```

Now everything within that division will be styled by the "container" style rule, I defined within my CSS file. A division creates a linebreak by default. You can use both classes and IDs with a division tag to style sections of your website.

Spans are very similar to divisions except they are an inline element versus a block level element. No linebreak is created when a span is declared.

You can use the span tag to style certain areas of text, as shown in the following:

```
Code <span class="italic">This text is italic</span>
Then in my CSS file:
```

```
Code .italic{
font-style: italic;
}
```

The final result is: This text is italic.

The purpose of the last 2 chapters was to provide you with a basis for using CSS in an (X)HTML file. For a more detailed explanation of XHTML please visit [W3Schools](http://www.w3schools.com)

As you may have guessed, the margin property declares the margin between an (X)HTML element and the elements around it. The margin property can be set for the top, left, right and bottom of an element. (see example below)

```
Code margin-top: length percentage or auto;
margin-left: length percentage or auto;
margin-right: length percentage or auto;
margin-bottom: length percentage or auto;
```

As you can also see in the above example you have 3 choices of values for the margin property

length
percentage
auto

You can also declare all the margins of an element in a single property as follows:

margin: 10px 10px 10px 10px;

If you declare all 4 values as I have above, the order is as follows:

top
right
bottom
left

If only one value is declared, it sets the margin on all sides. (see below)

margin: 10px;

If you only declare two or three values, the undeclared values are taken from the opposing side. (see below)

Code margin: 10px 10px; /* 2 values */

margin: 10px 10px 10px; /* 3 values */ You can set the margin property to negative values. If you do not declare the margin value of an element, the margin is 0 (zero).

Code margin: -10px;

Elements like paragraphs have default margins in some browsers, to combat this set the margin to 0 (zero).

Code p {margin: 0;}

Note: You do not have to add px (pixels) or whatever units you use, if the value is 0 (zero).

You can see in the example below, the elements for this site are set to be 20px (pixels) from the body

```
Code body{
  margin: 20px;
  background: #ee;
  font-size: small;
  font-family: Tahoma, Arial, "Trebuchet MS", Helvetica, sans-serif;
  text-align: left;
}
```

Padding is the distance between the border of an (X)HTML element and the content within it.

Most of the rules for margins also apply to padding, except there is no "auto" value, and negative values cannot be declared for padding.

Code padding-top: length percentage;
padding-left: length percentage;
padding-right: length percentage;
padding-bottom: length percentage;

As you can also see in the above example you have 2 choices of values for the padding property

length
percentage

You can also declare all the padding of an element in a single property as follows:

padding: 10px 10px 10px 10px;

If you declare all 4 values as I have above, the order is as follows:

top
right
bottom
left

If only one value is declared, it sets the padding on all sides. (see below)

```
padding: 10px;
```

If you only declare two or three values, the undeclared values are taken from the opposing side. (see below)

```
Code padding: 10px 10px; /* 2 values */  
padding: 10px 10px 10px; /* 3 values */
```

If you do not declare the padding value of an element, the padding is 0 (zero).

Note: You do not have to add px (pixels) or whatever units you use, if the value is 0 (zero).

You can see in the example below, the main container for this site has 30px (pixels) of padding between the border and the text.

```
Code #container{  
width: 70%;  
margin: auto;  
padding: 30px;  
border: 1px solid #666;  
background: #ff;  
}
```

You can set the color of text with the following:

```
Code color: value;  
Possible values are
```

color name – example:(red, black...)
hexadecimal number – example:(#ff0000, black)
RGB color code – example:(rgb(255, 0, 0), rgb(0, 0, 0))

Letter Spacing

You can adjust the space between letters in the following manner. Setting the value to 0, prevents the text from justifying. You can use negative values.

```
letter-spacing: value;
```

Possible values are

normal
length
Example:

These letters are spaced at 5px.

Text Align

You can align text with the following:

text-align: value;

Possible values are

left
right
center
justify

Examples:

This text is aligned left.

This text is aligned in the center.

This text is aligned right.

This text is justified.

Text Decoration

You can decorate text with the following:

text-decoration: value;

Possible values are

none
underline
overline
line through
blink

Examples:

This text is underlined.

This text is overlined.

This text has a line through it.

This text is blinking (not in internet explorer).

Text Indent

You can indent the first line of text in an (X)HTML element with the following:

text-indent: value;

Possible values are

length
percentage

Examples:

This text is indented 10px pixels.

Text Transform

You can control the size of letters in an (X)HTML element with the following:

```
text-transform: value;
```

Possible values are

none
capitalize
lowercase
uppercase
Examples:

This First Letter In Each Word Is Capitalized, Though It Is Not In My File.

THIS TEXT IS ALL UPPERCASE, THOUGH IT IS ALL LOWERCASE IN MY FILE.

this text is all lowercase. though it is all uppercase in my file.

White Space

You can control the whitespace in an (X)HTML element with the following:

```
white-space: value;
```

Possible values are

normal
pre
nowrap

Word Spacing

You can adjust the space between words in the following manner. You can use negative values.

```
word-spacing: value;
```

Possible values are

normal
length
Example:

These words are spaced at 5px.

I Hope you Liked the Tutorials. Please Don't leech the Tuts. Say thanks if it helped you out

Credits : Google

Code Coming Soon another HTML Tuts with CSS, Stay Tuned -

thank you very much really need it !!

Rita Ora - March 20, 2012, 9:13 am

This is really indepth, I've bookmarked it for reference later. Although the one thing I think you didn't cover is how to markout CSS from html/php :/

BaqarNaqvi2 - March 20, 2012, 11:12 am

Helped me alot. nice reference anyways
Thanks bro .. :D

Sugawara - March 20, 2012, 8:08 pm

(Mar 20, 2012 11:12 AM)BaqarNaqvi2 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Helped me alot. nice reference anyways
Thanks bro .. :D
I Liked It helped you out.!

(Mar 20, 2012 09:05 AM)devil223 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) thank you very much really need it !!
Yes, Everyone got Basics of HTML so i thought of Posting Something about CSS

(Mar 20, 2012 09:13 AM)Kandor Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) This is really indepth, I've bookmarked it for reference later. Although the one thing I think you didn't cover is how to markout CSS from html/php :/
Sure sir, I have marked out ONLY CSS. Your Demand will be fulfilled soon.! ?

?????s??? - March 21, 2012, 4:06 am

This looks like a very good starting place for CSS, keep up the good work x.Robot.x!

Sugawara - March 21, 2012, 4:07 am

(Mar 21, 2012 04:06 AM)Atomsai Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) This looks like a very good starting place for CSS, keep up the good work x.Robot.x!
Thank you sir :) I Liked you liked it ,!

kunalbhai - March 21, 2012, 8:03 pm

Liked the Tuts, Really helped me. Thanks

Sugawara - March 21, 2012, 11:08 pm

(Mar 21, 2012 08:03 PM)kunalbhai Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Liked the Tuts, Really helped me. Thanks
Thanks :) Liked you liked it.! 35 Chars

JumpWar - March 26, 2012, 2:01 pm

Very nice read thanks for gettin' me started with CSS.

Sugawara - March 27, 2012, 2:16 am

(Mar 26, 2012 02:01 PM)jumpwar Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Very nice read thanks for gettin' me started with CSS.
Liked it help you out,! Enjoy the tuts.! Gonna get some upgraded Tuts too,! Thanks

Webmasters - April 7, 2012, 1:27 am

Very informative thread.
I like what I see, keep it up.

Sugawara - April 7, 2012, 3:09 am

(Apr 7, 2012 01:27 AM)?îcK Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Very informative thread.

I like what I see, keep it up.
Thank you sir, Liked that you Liked it :)
Hope it Helps All :)

Deagler - April 7, 2012, 4:39 pm

Next step: Turn the tutorial into a video for visual learners like me. :P Pming you now for some questions.

sam2011hacker - April 12, 2012, 4:10 pm

For example, if the body margin is set to 20 pixels, the other elements within the file will not inherit the body margin by default.

Code body {margin: 20px;}
i didnt got what u said in this please help me

i want to learn css

Weedz420 - April 19, 2012, 11:40 am

Thanks man for this! Helps me a lot!

Stellow - April 19, 2012, 12:09 pm

(Apr 7, 2012 03:09 AM)x.Robot.x Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Thank you sir, Liked that you Liked it :)
Hope it Helps All :) Nice Tut, looks like you helping out a lot of people.

Sugawara - April 19, 2012, 10:44 pm

(Apr 12, 2012 04:10 PM)sam2011hacker Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) For example, if the body margin is set to 20 pixels, the other elements within the file will not inherit the body margin by default.

Code body {margin: 20px;}
i didnt got what u said in this please help me

i want to learn css

PM'd you Your doubt sir :) If any More Doubts ,PM me :) Thanks

(Apr 19, 2012 11:40 AM)xiVFINISHERVix Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Thanks man for this! Helps me a lot!Glad that It helped you out, if any Doubt in Coding ,Hit me with a PM

(Apr 19, 2012 12:09 PM)Stello Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Nice Tut, looks like you helping out a lot of people.
Just a Small Contribution towards Coding,Sir :)

Thanks for posting. ?

Sw1x - April 19, 2012, 11:49 pm

Very nice tutorial, this is very helpful people, use it!

Sugawara - April 20, 2012, 12:26 am

(Apr 19, 2012 11:49 PM)Sw1x Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Very nice tutorial, this is very helpful people, use it!

Thankyou for visiting :)

I Hope it helps everyone. Take Care..li