

# CSS Backgrounds

The CSS background properties are used to define the background effects for elements.

CSS background properties:

- background-color
- background-image
- background-repeat
- background-attachment
- background-position

## Background Color

The `background-color` property specifies the background color of an element.

The background color of a page is set like this:

### Example

```
body {  
  background-color: lightblue;  
}
```

With CSS, a color is most often specified by:

- a valid color name - like "red"
- a HEX value - like "#ff0000"
- an RGB value - like "rgb(255,0,0)"

Look at [CSS Color Values](#) for a complete list of possible color values.

In the example below, the `<h1>`, `<p>`, and `<div>` elements have different background colors:

### Example

```
h1 {  
  background-color: green;  
}  
  
div {  
  background-color: lightblue;  
}  
  
p {  
  background-color: yellow;  
}
```

---

## Background Image

The `background-image` property specifies an image to use as the background of an element.

By default, the image is repeated so it covers the entire element.

The background image for a page can be set like this:

### Example

```
body {  
  background-image: url("paper.gif");  
}
```

Below is an example of a **bad** combination of text and background image. The text is hardly readable:

### Example

```
body {  
  background-image: url("bgdesert.jpg");  
}
```

**Note:** When using a background image, use an image that does not disturb the text.

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## Background Image - Repeat Horizontally or Vertically

By default, the `background-image` property repeats an image both horizontally and vertically.

Some images should be repeated only horizontally or vertically, or they will look strange, like this:

### Example

```
body {  
  background-image: url("gradient_bg.png");  
}
```

If the image above is repeated only horizontally (`background-repeat: repeat-x;`), the background will look better:

### Example

```
body {  
  background-image: url("gradient_bg.png");  
  background-repeat: repeat-x;  
}
```

**Tip:** To repeat an image vertically, set `background-repeat: repeat-y;`

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## Background Image - Set position and no-repeat

Showing the background image only once is also specified by the `background-repeat` property:

### Example

```
body {  
  background-image: url("img_tree.png");  
  background-repeat: no-repeat;  
}
```

In the example above, the background image is shown in the same place as the text. We want to change the position of the image, so that it does not disturb the text too much.

The position of the image is specified by the `background-position` property:

### Example

```
body {  
  background-image: url("img_tree.png");  
  background-repeat: no-repeat;  
  background-position: right top;  
}
```

---

## Background Image - Fixed position

To specify that the background image should be fixed (will not scroll with the rest of the page), use the `background-attachment` property:

### Example

```
body {  
  background-image: url("img_tree.png");  
  background-repeat: no-repeat;  
  background-position: right top;  
  background-attachment: fixed;  
}
```

---

## Background - Shorthand property

To shorten the code, it is also possible to specify all the background properties in one single property. This is called a shorthand property.

The shorthand property for background is `background`:

### Example

```
body {  
  background: #ffffff url("img_tree.png") no-repeat right top;  
}
```

When using the shorthand property the order of the property values is:

- background-color
- background-image
- background-repeat
- background-attachment
- background-position

It does not matter if one of the property values is missing, as long as the other ones are in this order.

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## Test Yourself with Exercises!

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## All CSS Background Properties

Property	Description
<a href="#">background</a>	Sets all the background properties in one declaration
<a href="#">background-attachment</a>	Sets whether a background image is fixed or scrolls with the rest of the page
<a href="#">background-color</a>	Sets the background color of an element
<a href="#">background-image</a>	Sets the background image for an element
<a href="#">background-position</a>	Sets the starting position of a background image
<a href="#">background-repeat</a>	Sets how a background image will be repeated