

CSS Outline

This element has a black border and a green outline with a width of 10px.

CSS Outline

An outline is a line that is drawn around elements, **OUTSIDE** the borders, to make the element "stand out".

CSS has the following outline properties:

- `outline-style`
- `outline-color`
- `outline-width`
- `outline-offset`
- `outline`

Note: Outline differs from borders! Unlike border, the outline is drawn outside the element's border, and may overlap other content. Also, the outline is **NOT** a part of the element's dimensions; the element's total width and height is not affected by the width of the outline.

Outline Style

The `outline-style` property specifies the style of the outline, and can have one of the following values:

- `dotted` - Defines a dotted outline
- `dashed` - Defines a dashed outline
- `solid` - Defines a solid outline
- `double` - Defines a double outline
- `groove` - Defines a 3D grooved outline
- `ridge` - Defines a 3D ridged outline
- `inset` - Defines a 3D inset outline
- `outset` - Defines a 3D outset outline
- `none` - Defines no outline
- `hidden` - Defines a hidden outline

The following example shows the different `outline-style` values:

A dotted outline.

A dashed outline.

A solid outline.

A double outline.

A groove outline. The effect depends on the `outline-color` value.

A ridge outline. The effect depends on the `outline-color` value.

An inset outline. The effect depends on the outline-color value.

An outset outline. The effect depends on the outline-color value.

Example

```
p.dotted {outline-style: dotted;}
p.dashed {outline-style: dashed;}
p.solid {outline-style: solid;}
p.double {outline-style: double;}
p.groove {outline-style: groove;}
p.ridge {outline-style: ridge;}
p.inset {outline-style: inset;}
p.outset {outline-style: outset;}
```

Note: None of the other outline properties will have any effect, unless the `outline-style` property is set!

Outline Color

The `outline-color` property is used to set the color of the outline.

The color can be set by:

- name - specify a color name, like "red"
- RGB - specify a RGB value, like "rgb(255,0,0)"
- Hex - specify a hex value, like "#ff0000"
- invert - performs a color inversion (which ensures that the outline is visible, regardless of color background)

The following example shows some different outlines with different colors. Also notice that these elements also have a thin black border inside the outline:

A solid red outline.

A double green outline.

An outset yellow outline.

Example

```
p.ex1 {
  border: 1px solid black;
  outline-style: solid;
  outline-color: red;
}
```

```
p.ex2 {
  border: 1px solid black;
  outline-style: double;
  outline-color: green;
}
```

```
}
```

```
p.ex3 {  
  border: 1px solid black;  
  outline-style: outset;  
  outline-color: yellow;  
}
```

The following example uses `outline-color: invert`, which performs a color inversion. This ensures that the outline is visible, regardless of color background:

A solid invert outline.

Example

```
p.ex1 {  
  border: 1px solid yellow;  
  outline-style: solid;  
  outline-color: invert;  
}
```

Outline Width

The `outline-width` property specifies the width of the outline, and can have one of the following values:

- thin (typically 1px)
- medium (typically 3px)
- thick (typically 5px)
- A specific size (in px, pt, cm, em, etc)

The following example shows some outlines with different widths:

A thin outline.

A medium outline.

A thick outline.

A 4px thick outline.

Example

```
p.ex1 {  
  border: 1px solid black;  
  outline-style: solid;  
  outline-color: red;  
  outline-width: thin;  
}
```

```
p.ex2 {  
  border: 1px solid black;  
  outline-style: solid;  
  outline-color: red;  
  outline-width: medium;  
}
```

```
p.ex3 {  
  border: 1px solid black;  
  outline-style: solid;  
  outline-color: red;  
  outline-width: thick;  
}
```

```
p.ex4 {  
  border: 1px solid black;  
  outline-style: solid;  
  outline-color: red;  
  outline-width: 4px;  
}
```

Outline - Shorthand property

The `outline` property is a shorthand property for setting the following individual outline properties:

- `outline-width`
- `outline-style` (required)
- `outline-color`

The `outline` property is specified as one, two, or three values from the list above. The order of the values does not matter.

The following example shows some outlines specified with the shorthand `outline` property:



Example

```
p.ex1 {outline: dashed;}  
p.ex2 {outline: dotted red;}  
p.ex3 {outline: 5px solid yellow;}  
p.ex4 {outline: thick ridge pink;}
```

Outline Offset

The `outline-offset` property adds space between an outline and the edge/border of an element. The space between an element and its outline is transparent.

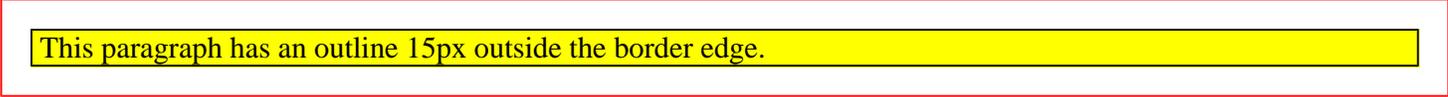
The following example specifies an outline 15px outside the border edge:

This paragraph has an outline 15px outside the border edge.

Example

```
p {  
  margin: 30px;  
  border: 1px solid black;  
  outline: 1px solid red;  
  outline-offset: 15px;  
}
```

The following example shows that the space between an element and its outline is transparent:



This paragraph has an outline 15px outside the border edge.

Example

```
p {  
  margin: 30px;  
  background: yellow;  
  border: 1px solid black;  
  outline: 1px solid red;  
  outline-offset: 15px;  
}
```

Test Yourself with Exercises!

All CSS Outline Properties

Property	Description
outline	A shorthand property for setting outline-width, outline-style, and outline-color in one declaration
outline-color	Sets the color of an outline
outline-offset	Specifies the space between an outline and the edge or border of an element
outline-style	Sets the style of an outline
outline-width	Sets the width of an outline