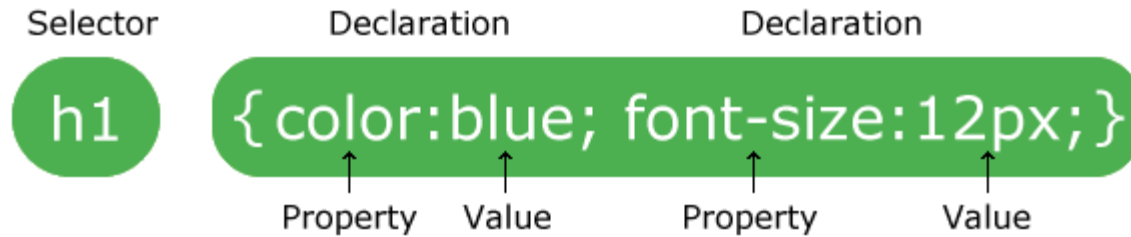


# CSS Syntax and Selectors

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## CSS Syntax

A CSS rule-set consists of a selector and a declaration block:



The selector points to the HTML element you want to style.

The declaration block contains one or more declarations separated by semicolons.

Each declaration includes a CSS property name and a value, separated by a colon.

A CSS declaration always ends with a semicolon, and declaration blocks are surrounded by curly braces.

In the following example all <p> elements will be center-aligned, with a red text color:

### Example

```
p {  
  color: red;  
  text-align: center;  
}
```

---

## CSS Selectors

CSS selectors are used to "find" (or select) HTML elements based on their element name, id, class, attribute, and more.

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### The element Selector

The element selector selects elements based on the element name.

You can select all <p> elements on a page like this (in this case, all <p> elements will be center-aligned, with a red text color):

### Example

```
p {  
  text-align: center;  
  color: red;  
}
```

---

## The id Selector

The id selector uses the id attribute of an HTML element to select a specific element.

The id of an element should be unique within a page, so the id selector is used to select one unique element!

To select an element with a specific id, write a hash (#) character, followed by the id of the element.

The style rule below will be applied to the HTML element with id="para1":

### Example

```
#para1 {  
  text-align: center;  
  color: red;  
}
```

**Note:** An id name cannot start with a number!

---

## The class Selector

The class selector selects elements with a specific class attribute.

To select elements with a specific class, write a period (.) character, followed by the name of the class.

In the example below, all HTML elements with class="center" will be red and center-aligned:

### Example

```
.center {  
  text-align: center;  
  color: red;  
}
```

You can also specify that only specific HTML elements should be affected by a class.

In the example below, only <p> elements with class="center" will be center-aligned:

### Example

```
p.center {  
  text-align: center;  
  color: red;  
}
```

HTML elements can also refer to more than one class.

In the example below, the <p> element will be styled according to class="center" and to class="large":

## Example

```
<p class="center large">This paragraph refers to two classes.</p>
```

**Note:** A class name cannot start with a number!

---

## Grouping Selectors

If you have elements with the same style definitions, like this:

```
h1 {  
  text-align: center;  
  color: red;  
}
```

```
h2 {  
  text-align: center;  
  color: red;  
}
```

```
p {  
  text-align: center;  
  color: red;  
}
```

It will be better to group the selectors, to minimize the code.

To group selectors, separate each selector with a comma.

In the example below we have grouped the selectors from the code above:

## Example

```
h1, h2, p {  
  text-align: center;  
  color: red;  
}
```

---

## CSS Comments

Comments are used to explain the code, and may help when you edit the source code at a later date.

Comments are ignored by browsers.

A CSS comment starts with /\* and ends with \*/. Comments can also span multiple lines:

## Example

```
p {  
  color: red;  
  /* This is a single-line comment */  
  text-align: center;  
}
```

```
/* This is  
a multi-line  
comment */
```