

# Cascading Style Sheets

## Contents

<b>CREATING A CSS STYLE RULE</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>CLASS</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>ID</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>LINKING A CSS RULE TO A HTML PAGE</b>	<b>4</b>

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## Creating a CSS Style Rule

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A CSS Style Rule has two parts. The first is called the *Selector* which tells the browser where to apply the formatting. Any tag can act as a selector, e.g. <p>. Both *Class* and *ID* can also be used.

The second part of the Style rule is the *Declaration* which consists of "property & value" combinations, separated by a colon, ":". The *Declaration* is nested in curly brackets, {}.

The property *color* is used to apply colour to text. The [hex](#) value for the colour blue is #00F giving a *Declaration* of {color: #00F;}

A complete rule is: p {color:#00F;}.

In order to use a style on a web page, the style has to be linked to the page. See section below.

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## Class

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A “class” is a custom *selector*. It may appear multiple times on a page. It is a bit like a family name where a family can contain many people with the same family name.

To create *CSS Rule* for a *class*, prefix the *class* name with a full stop, “.”, e.g. *.wrapper*.

```
.wrapper {color: #00F;}
```

OR

```
.borderfull {border: solid 2px red;}
```

Once created, the *CSS Rule* can be applied by including the rule name in a HTML opening tag. To apply the rule *blue*, include *class="blue"* in the opening tag of an element:

```
<div class="wrapper">...some content...</div>
```

A tag can have more than one class associated. Each class is separated from the other by a space (no commas!):

```
<div class="wrapper borderfull ">...some content...</div>
```

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## ID

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An “id” is a custom selector. It may only appear once per page. It is a bit like a social security number, with each one uniquely identifying on element on the page.

To create a *CSS Rule* for an *id*, prefix the *id* name with a hash, “#”, e.g. *#contentWrapper*.

```
#contentWrapper {background-color: #00F;}
```

This rule adds a background colour to an element with the id *contentWrapper*.

To apply the *id*, enter the following in the opening tag of an element:

```
<div id="contentWrapper"> ...some content...</div>
```

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## Linking a CSS Rule to a HTML page

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CSS Style Rules have to be linked to a HTML page to be applied. This can be done in a number of ways:

1. “Inline” using the *style* attribute of a tag. An example of this for the paragraph tag, <p>, would be:

```
<p style="color: #00F;">
```

This style would make the paragraph text a blue colour.

2. As an *Internal* style in the <head> of the HTML file.  
All rules located here are placed between the opening and closing <style> tags

```
<style>
  p {color: #00F;}
  div {background-color: #999;}
</style>
```

The <style> element is placed in the <head> of the HTML page.

3. In a separate file. This is referred to as an “External” stylesheet. These are often stored in a separate folder called “css”.

These stylesheets are linked to the HTML document using the <link> tag. An example of this for a css file called styles located in a folder called css is:

```
<link href="css/styles.css" rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" media="screen">
```

This link is placed in the <head> of the html document.

4. Stylesheets can also be imported into a document using *@import*. They are added in the <style> tag in the <head> of the document as shown:

```
<style type="text/css">
  @import url("styles.css") tv, print;
</style>
```

- a. The @import can also be used in an external stylesheet. The following line could be added at the top of a stylesheet called *styles.css*, just after the opening:

```
@import url('typography.css');
```

- b. This would mean that the styles in the stylesheet, *typography.css* are now available within the stylesheet *styles.css*. In the HTML document, a link to

*styles.css* would mean that all styles in *styles.css* and those in *typography.css* are available to the HTML document.

- c. It is better practice to reference both stylesheets using multiple `<link>` elements in the main HTML page `<head>` section, as both can be downloaded at the same time.