

CSS Syntax

What is a CSS file?

A CSS file is a plain text file, saved with the extension, ".css".

What does it contain?

A list of rules, which state how particular elements in an HTML document (web page) appear.

What does a rule look like?

This is a rule which says that all paragraphs must be green:

```
p { color: green; }
```

This can be broken down into a *selector*, a *declaration* and a *property*:

	<i>Selector</i>	<i>Declaration: property;</i>
HTML	p	{ font-family: Arial, sans-serif; }
ID	#banner	{ position: absolute; top: 40px; left: 200px; }
Class	.boxed	{ border: 1px solid #900; }
Pseudo-class	a:hover	{ text-decoration: none; background: #ccc; }

A style sheet CAN have:

- as many rules as you like,
- rules with multiple *declaration:property* pairs (just so long as each one ends with a ";",
- comments – like this `/* comment here */`

Also bear in mind:

- As with HTML, CSS can be laid out with spaces and tabs to make it easy to read.
- Spaces can be important, particularly within properties.

What does a typical style sheet look like?

Here's an example:

```
body {  
    font-family: Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif;  
    color: black;  
    padding-left: 200px;  
}  
  
p {  
    font-size: 80%;  
    line-height: 1.5em;  
}  
  
#navigation {  
    position: absolute;  
    top: 10px;  
    left: 10px;  
    width: 180px;  
}
```


And that's all there is to it!

Note how I've laid out the style sheet to make it more readable.

Basic CSS Styles

The following table lists some basic CSS techniques and shows the effects they have on a given web page.

I've used exactly the same HTML in each example, only changing the rules in a linked stylesheet.

The HTML is used is shown in the box to the right 

```
<html> <head>
  <title>Test document</title>
  <link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="styles.css" />
</head> <body>


<!-- This "div" defines an area which contains the next two paragraphs -->
<div id="top-paragraph">
<p>Cascading Style Sheets</p>
<p> - the best way to format your web pages!</p>
</div>

<!-- the "span" in this paragraph flags up the text, "simple mechanism", so it can be
individually formatted -->
<p>Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) is a <span class="simple-mech">simple mechanism</span>
for adding style (e.g. fonts, colors, spacing) to Web documents.</p>

</body> </html>
```

















<i>Formatting Effect</i>	<i>CSS</i>	<i>Output</i>
Font / type-face	<pre>#top-paragraph { font-family: Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif; }</pre> <p><i>other font-family possibilities:</i> <i>"Courier New", Courier, monospace</i> <i>"Times New Roman", Times, serif</i> <i>"Trebuchet MS", verdana, lucida, sans-serif;</i></p>	<p>Cascading Style Sheets</p> <p>- the best way to format your web pages!</p> <p>Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) is a simple mechanism for adding style (e.g. fonts, colors, spacing) to Web documents.</p>
Font colour, weight, style and size	<pre>.simple-mech { font-size: 150%; font-weight: bold; font-style: italic; color: red; }</pre>	<p>Cascading Style Sheets</p> <p>- the best way to format your web pages!</p> <p>Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) is a <i>simple mechanism</i> for adding style (e.g. fonts, colors, spacing) to Web documents.</p>

<i>Formatting Effect</i>	<i>CSS</i>	<i>Output</i>
Text decoration and alignment	<pre>#top-paragraph { text-decoration: line-through; text-align: right; } .simple-mech { text-decoration: underline; }</pre>	<p style="text-align: right;">Cascading Style Sheets</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- the best way to format your web pages!</p> <p>Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) is a <u>simple mechanism</u> for adding style (e.g. fonts, colors, spacing) to Web documents.</p>
Background colour	<pre>#top-paragraph { background: silver; }</pre>	<p>Cascading Style Sheets</p> <p>- the best way to format your web pages!</p> <p>Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) is a simple mechanism for adding style (e.g. fonts, colors, spacing) to Web documents.</p>
Background images	<pre>#top-paragraph { background-image: url(raindrops_dark.gif); }</pre>	<p>Cascading Style Sheets</p> <p>- the best way to format your web pages!</p> <p>Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) is a simple mechanism for adding style (e.g. fonts, colors, spacing) to Web documents.</p>
Border, margin and padding	<pre>#top-paragraph { border: 1px solid black; margin: 20px; padding: 20px; }</pre>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 20px; margin: 20px;"> <p>Cascading Style Sheets</p> <p>- the best way to format your web pages!</p> </div> <p>Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) is a simple mechanism for adding style (e.g. fonts, colors, spacing) to Web documents.</p>

<i>Formatting Effect</i>	<i>CSS</i>	<i>Output</i>
Individual border control	<pre>#top-paragraph { border-bottom: 5px solid black; border-left: 5px dotted red; border-right: 5px dotted blue; border-top: 5px dashed green; }</pre> <p><i>NB: Internet Explorer displays dotted borders as dashed.</i></p>	 <p>Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) is a simple mechanism for adding style (e.g. fonts, colors, spacing) to Web documents.</p>
Floated boxes	<pre>#top-paragraph { float: right; width: 60%; border: 1px solid red; }</pre>	<p>Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) is a simple mechanism for adding style (e.g. fonts, colors, spacing) to Web documents.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; float: right;"> <p>Cascading Style Sheets - the best way to format your web pages!</p> </div>
Absolute positioning	<pre>#top-paragraph { position: absolute; top: 35px; left: 115px; border: 1px dashed red; }</pre>	<p>Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) is a simple mechanism for adding style (e.g. fonts, colors, spacing) to Web documents.</p> <div style="border: 1px dashed red; padding: 5px; margin-left: 100px;"> <p>Cascading Style Sheets - the best way to format your web pages!</p> </div>
Relative positioning	<pre>.simple-mech { position: relative; top: 30px; left: 100px; font-size: 130%; font-style: italic; border: 1px dashed blue; }</pre>	<p>Cascading Style Sheets</p> <p>- the best way to format your web pages!</p> <p>Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) is a simple mechanism for adding style (e.g. fonts, colors, spacing) to Web documents.</p> <div style="border: 1px dashed blue; padding: 5px; margin-left: 100px;"> <p><i>simple mechanism</i></p> </div>

CSS Colours

This page lists some of the colours which can be used in a stylesheet .

<i>Colour name</i>	<i>Hexadecimal colour code</i>	
aqua	#00ffff	
black	#000000	
blue	#0000ff	
fuchsia	#ff00ff	
gray	#808080	
green	#008000	
lime	#00ff00	
maroon	#800000	
navy	#000080	
olive	#808000	
purple	#800080	
red	#ff0000	
silver	#c0c0c0	
teal	#008080	
white	ffffff	
yellow	ffff00	

Note on hexadecimal values:


In stylesheets, if a hexadecimal number consists of 3 pairs of two identical numbers, we can use a 3-digit value instead of six.

For example, #00cccc could also be written as #0cc

This is entirely optional – but 3 digit values can be easier to remember and quicker to write.

Formatting Tables with CSS

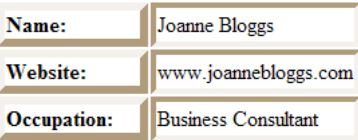
As with the basic CSS techniques, all of the following table styling methods have been applied to the same web page.

Here's the code 

```
<html> <head>
  <title>Table example</title>
  <link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="styles.css" />
</head> <body>

<table>
<tr><th>Name:</th><td>Joanne Bloggs</td></tr>
<tr><th>Website:</th><td>www.joannebloggs.com</td></tr>
<tr><th>Occupation:</th><td>Business Consultant</td></tr>
</table>

</body> </html>
```

<i>Formatting Effect</i>	<i>CSS</i>	<i>Output</i>
Left aligned TH cells, with some right padding added	<pre>th { text-align: left; padding-right: 20px; }</pre>	<p>Name: Joanne Bloggs Website: www.joannebloggs.com Occupation: Business Consultant</p>
Borders formatted using the "seperated border model"	<pre>table { border-collapse: separate; } th { border: outset 6px; } td { border: inset 4px; }</pre>	
Borders formatted using the "collapsing border model"	<pre>table { border-collapse: collapse; border: 5px solid lime; } th { border: 3px solid red; } td { border: 3px solid blue; }</pre>	