

# CSS Selectors

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CSS selectors are used to "find" (or select) the HTML elements you want to style.

We can divide CSS selectors into five categories:

- Simple selectors (select elements based on name, id, class)
- Combinator selectors (select elements based on a specific relationship between them)
- Pseudo-class selectors (select elements based on a certain state)
- Pseudo-elements selectors (select and style a part of an element)
- Attribute selectors (select elements based on an attribute or attribute value) This page will explain the most basic CSS selectors.

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## The CSS element Selector

The element selector selects HTML elements based on the element name.

Here, all `<p>` elements on the page will be center-aligned, with a red text color:

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

Example 1

**index.html**

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">

<head>
  <meta charset="UTF-8">
  <meta http-equiv="X-UA-Compatible" content="IE=edge">
  <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
  <title>CSS</title>

  <link rel="stylesheet" href="style.css">
</head>

<body>
  <p>Every paragraph will be affected by the style.</p>
  <p id="para1">Me too!</p>
  <p>And me!</p>
</body>
</html>
```

### style.css

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

Every paragraph will be affected by the style.

Me too!

And me!

### Result

## The CSS id Selector

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

The id of an element is 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.

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

## Example 2

### index.html

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">

<head>
  <meta charset="UTF-8">
  <meta http-equiv="X-UA-Compatible" content="IE=edge">
  <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
  <title>CSS ex2</title>

  <link rel="stylesheet" href="style.css">

</head>

<body>
  <p id="para1">Hello World!</p>
  <p>This paragraph is not affected by the style.</p>
</body>

</html>
```

### style.css

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

## Result

**Hello World!**

This paragraph is not affected by the style.

## The CSS class Selector

The class selector selects HTML elements with a specific class attribute.

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

### Example 3-1

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

#### index.html

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">

<head>
  <meta charset="UTF-8">
  <meta http-equiv="X-UA-Compatible" content="IE=edge">
  <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
  <title>CSS ex3-1</title>

  <link rel="stylesheet" href="style.css">

</head>

<body>

  <h1 class="center">Red and center-aligned heading</h1>
  <p class="center">Red and center-aligned paragraph.</p>

</body>

</html>
```

#### style.css

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

#### Result

# Red and center-aligned heading

Red and center-aligned paragraph.

## Example 3-2

In this example only

elements with class="center" will be red and center-aligned:

### index.html

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">

<head>
  <meta charset="UTF-8">
  <meta http-equiv="X-UA-Compatible" content="IE=edge">
  <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
  <title>CSS ex3-2</title>

  <link rel="stylesheet" href="style.css">

</head>

<body>
  <h1 class="center">This heading will not be affected</h1>
  <p class="center">This paragraph will be red and center-aligned.</p>
</body>

</html>
```

### style.css

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

### Result

# This heading will not be affected

This paragraph will be red and center-aligned.

## Example 3-3

In this example the

element will be styled according to class="center" and to class="large":

Note: A class name cannot start with a number!

### index.html

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">

<head>
  <meta charset="UTF-8">
  <meta http-equiv="X-UA-Compatible" content="IE=edge">
  <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
  <title>CSS</title>

  <link rel="stylesheet" href="style.css">
</head>

<body>

  <h1 class="center">This heading will not be affected</h1>
  <p class="center">This paragraph will be red and center-aligned.</p>
  <p class="center large">This paragraph will be red, center-aligned,
and in a large font-size.</p>

</body>

</html>
```

### style.css

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

```
}  
  
p.large {  
    font-size: 300%;  
}
```

## Result

# This heading will not be affected

This paragraph will be red and center-aligned.

This paragraph will be  
red, center-aligned, and  
in a large font-size.

## The CSS Universal Selector

The universal selector (\*) selects all HTML elements on the page.

### Example 4

#### index.html

```
<!DOCTYPE html>  
<html lang="en">  
  
<head>  
    <meta charset="UTF-8">  
    <meta http-equiv="X-UA-Compatible" content="IE=edge">  
    <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">  
    <title>CSS ex4</title>  
  
    <link rel="stylesheet" href="style.css">  
  
</head>  
  
<body>
```

```
<h1>Hello world!</h1>

<p>Every element on the page will be affected by the style.</p>
<p id="para1">Me too!</p>
<p>And me!</p>

</body>

</html>
```

### style.css

```
* {
  text-align: center;
  color: blue;
}
```

### Result

# Hello world!

Every element on the page will be affected by the style.

Me too!

And me!

## The CSS Grouping Selector

The grouping selector selects all the HTML elements with the same style definitions.

Look at the following CSS code (the h1, h2, and p elements have the same style definitions):

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

To group selectors, separate each selector with a comma.

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

### Example 5



## index.html

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">

<head>
  <meta charset="UTF-8">
  <meta http-equiv="X-UA-Compatible" content="IE=edge">
  <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
  <title>CSS</title>

  <link rel="stylesheet" href="style.css">

</head>

<body>

  <h1>Hello World!</h1>
  <h2>Smaller heading!</h2>
  <h3>No group</h3>
  <p>This is a paragraph.</p>

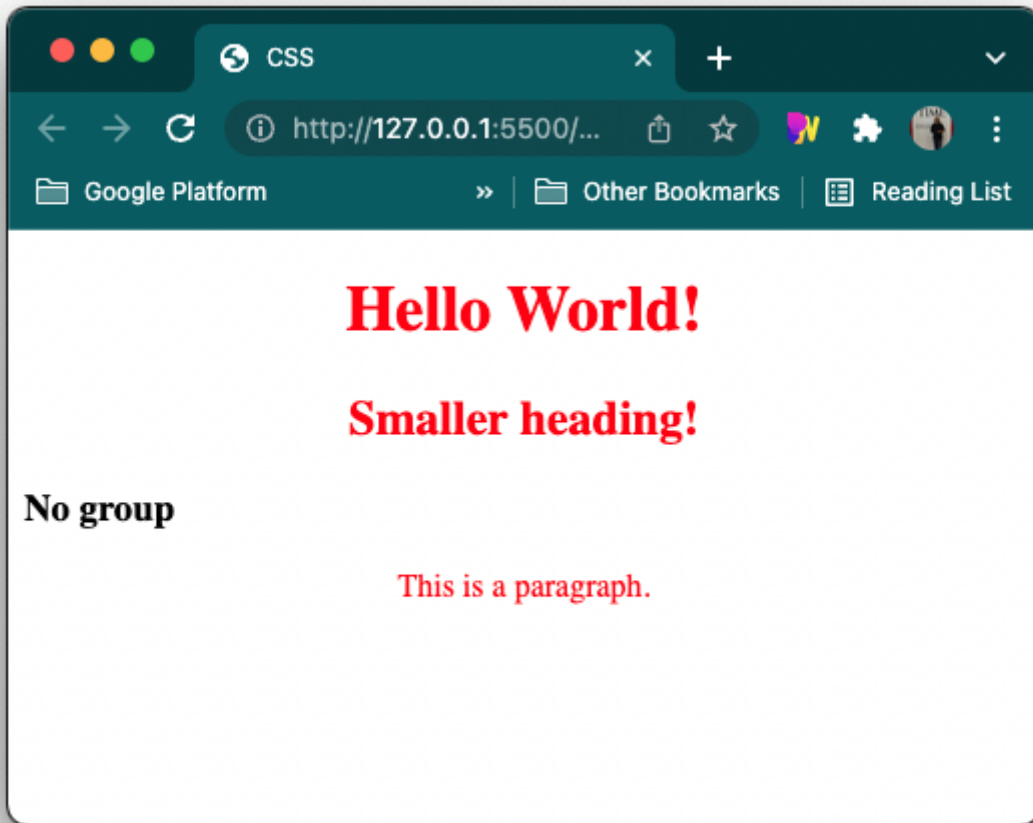
</body>

</html>
```

## style.css

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

## Result



## Document

Document in project

You can [Download PDF](#) file.

## Refference