

# Using CSS to build web pages

## CSS Syntax and Principles

So why do you need to know CSS syntax?

Dreamweaver inserts the CSS code automatically into your document or external file, so it isn't obviously vital. However if you want to insert some custom CSS yourself or more importantly build a page directly from CSS for its layout it becomes somewhat more crucial.

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**Style command syntax** is *name colon value semicolon* Case is insensitive

Eg color: red – within the bold tag it will be `<b style="color: red">red text</a>`

Within a style block or external file the syntax is `b { color: red; }`

### Empty tag containers

There are two of these used to hold style commands `<span>` `<div>`

Eg `<span style="color: red"> this is red</span>`

`<div style="color: red"> this is red</div>`

`<div>` is used as a block container to hold content specified for a block of content as in the `<p>` tag whereas `<span>` is used within a block to change style.

The term 'selector' is used to describe the CSS commands in the same way that HTML uses 'tag' Sometimes the opening commands are termed tags `<style>`, `<div>`, `class=` etc  
CSS (Cascading Style Sheets) is a language for describing the rendering of HTML and XML documents on screen, on paper, in speech, etc. To bind style properties to elements in the document, CSS uses *selectors*, which are patterns that match one or more elements.

<http://www.w3.org/TR/2001/CR-css3-selectors-20011113/#selectors>

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### Locations for CSS

- (a) Within the text – inline CSS tags
- (b) At the top of the document within the head section as a style block
- (c) In an external CSS file linked to the web page

Dreamweaver will create these last two (b) and (c) for you

## CSS usage when building web pages

### (1) Inline CSS selectors

The style(s) can be specified **within any HTML markup tag** within the document

eg

```
<b style="color: red">a line of red text</a>
```

In a style block in the head this would look like this

```
<style type="text/css">  
b { colour: red }  
</style>
```

You could embed different styles of say text colour within the document paragraph by using  
<span>..... </span>

**Dreamweaver works with redefining specific tags using its selector type 'Tag'**

### (2) CSS Classes

These are like sub tags. They will allow you to have different variants of a tag within a block or content section.

The style is specified in a style block in the head of the document.

**Dreamweaver creates these as its selector type 'Class'**

The CSS notation for a class tag is a dot before the name. The name can be anything you wish to use to describe the class

Eg in the style block

```
<style type="text/css">  
.emphtext { font-weight: bold; color: red }  
</style>
```

In the body of the text it would appear as

```
<span class="emphtext"> this is the red bold text</span>
```

### (3) CSS Sub Classes

**You can set up the selector sub class in DW but need to implement in the code using  
<span> or <div> as DW is not helpful**

Sometimes called 'contextual selectors' These allow you to set up strings of two or more selectors which are then assigned properties

The selectors are separated by a space as shown below for the style block in the head

```
<style type="text/css">  
.specialtext b { font-style: italic; font-weight: bold; color: #FFFF00 }
```

</style>

On the page code this would look like this:

```
<span class="specialtext">  
<b>text with yellow text in a document which has italics used with bold</b>  
</span>
```

#### (4) ID Attribute

You can set up the selector ID attribute in DW but need to implement in the code using <span> or <div> as DW is not helpful

A CSS id tag has a hash mark # for its identifier.

You can again call this identifier what you want and it is specified in the style block in the head by this.

```
<style type="text/css">  
#emphertext { font-weight: bold; color: red }  
</style>
```

In the body of the page code it look like this.

```
<span id="emphertext"> this is the red bold text</span>
```

id tag is supposed to occur only once in a page. **This is mainly used for layout design.**

Each layout container with its positioning and size, colours etc will be given a unique id  
Otherwise not much used for formatting as a result as most people use classes.

### CSS Text Syntax

Style	Parameters	Description	Usage
font-weight	bold, normal, lighter, bolder	font-weight: bold	
font-style	normal, italics, oblique	font-style: italic	
font-family	serif, sans-serif, monospace	font-family: serif	* font-family: Verdana, Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif;
font-size	xx-small, x-small, small, , medium, large, x-large, xx-large in, cm, mm, pt, pc, em, px	font-size: 90% font-size: x-large	

color	red, blue, green, yellow, aqua,, black, fuchsia, gray, lime, maroon, navy, olive, purple, silver, teal, white #FF0000 etc	Colourname can be used or the hex number of the colour Get hex number from DW palette in Property Inspector	Changes the font colour Note USA spellings!
font-variant			
font		Font: bold 19pt Courier	** Allows the specification of a number of text elements in one command
vertical-text-align	top, middle, bottom, text-top,, text-bottom		Alignment of elements with lines of text
letter-spacing	in, cm, mm, pt, pc, em, px	letter-spacing: 2px	Used to stretch space or reduce space between letters
line-height	in, cm, mm, pt, pc, em, px or use use fractions 1.5, 2 etc	line-height: 1.5	Used to stretch space or reduce space between lines
text-decoration	underline, overline,line- through, blink	text-decoration: underline	Used to provide underlining etc
vertical-align			
word-spacing	in, cm, mm, pt, pc, em, px		Used to stretch space or reduce space between words
text-transform	capitalize, uppercase, lowercase, none	text-transform: capitalize	
text-align	left, centre, right, justify		As in a word processor for a block of text

\* Dreamweaver puts font-family into groups as shown here. You need to know if the fonts used are serif or sans-serif

**\*\* Note the font: command allows you to specify a number of parameters on one line**

## CSS General Tags

Tag	Closing Tag	Description
<code>&lt;span</code>	<code>&lt;/span&gt;</code>	Specifies a nonbreaking CSS container; used within sentences or headers to change individual words
<code>style=</code>		Provides specific CSS styles to apply to the span
<code>class=</code>		Identifies which CSS class should be applied to the span
<code>id=</code>		Identifies which CSS ID should be applied to the span
<code>&lt;div</code>	<code>&lt;/div&gt;</code>	Specifies a CSS container that acts identically to the <code>&lt;p&gt;</code> tag; forces a line break before and after
<code>style=</code>		Specifies CSS styles to apply to the div
<code>class=</code>		Identifies which CSS class should be applied to the div
<code>id=</code>		Identifies which CSS ID should be applied to the div
<code>&lt;link</code>		References external CSS style sheet by name
<code>type=</code>		Specifies a type of external link; for CSS it should be text/css
<code>href=</code>		Indicates the URL of the style sheet; by convention, separate CSS style sheets are named with a .css filename suffix
<code>&lt;style</code>	<code>&lt;/style&gt;</code>	Specifies a block for CSS style definitions on Web page; should appear within the <code>&lt;head&gt;&lt;/head&gt;</code> block of the page
<code>type=</code>		Specifies the type of style sheet being used; for CSS always use text/css

## Text Syntax

Style	Exemplary Usage	Description
font-weight	Font-weight: bold	Specifies how much or how little to embolden a text passage
font-style	Font-style: italic	Specifies whether to italicize, oblique, or leave the text passage non-italicized
font-family	Font-family: serif	Specifies which typeface to use for the text passage, as a comma-separated list, or which font-family to use from a small predefined list
font-size	Font-size: 80%	Specifies the type size of the text passage in one of a wide variety of different units and values
color	Color: green	Specifies the text color in the text passage; can be color names or color values specified in a variety of ways
font-variant	Font-variant: small-caps	Transforms the text passage based on the specified variation; only small-caps and none are defined
letter-spacing	Letter-spacing: -3px	Changes the interletter spacing (also known as the kerning) to make it larger or smaller than the default
word-spacing	Word-spacing: 15px	Increases or decreases the spacing between words in the text passage
line-height	Line-height: 1.25	Changes the spacing between lines of text (also known as the leading); a variety of values are accepted, including fractional values such as 1.5 (for one and a half times normal spacing), 2 (for double spacing), and so on
text-align	text-align:center	Specifies alignment for a block of text
vertical-align	Vertical-align: sub	Specifies vertical alignment of a text passage relative to other text on the line
text-decoration	Text-decoration: underline	Specifies one or more of a variety of simple text decorations
text-transform	Text-transform: capitalize	Specifies one of a number of text transformations involving upper- and lowercase letters
font	Font: 22pt monospace	Indicates shorthand CSS notation that allows the specification of a number of different font characteristics