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Introduction - Free CSS Tutorial

CSS is a style language that defines layout of HTML documents Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) is a fantastic tool to add layout to your websites. It can save you a lot of time and it enables you to design websites in a completely new way. CSS is a must for anyone working with web design.

This tutorial will get you started with CSS in just a few hours. It is easy to understand and it will teach you all the sophisticated techniques.

Learning CSS is fun. As you go along through the tutorial, remember to take enough time to properly experiment with what you learn in each lesson.

Using CSS requires basic experience with HTML. If you are not familiar with HTML, please start with our HTML tutorial before moving on to CSS.

Which software do I need?

Please avoid using software such as FrontPage, DreamWeaver or Word with this tutorial. Advanced software will not help you learn CSS. Instead, it will limit you and slow down your learning curve significantly.

All you need is a free and simple text editor.

For example, Microsoft Windows comes with a program called Notepad. It is usually located in Accessories in the start menu under Programs. Alternatively, you can use a similar text editor e.g. Pico for Linux or Simple Text for Macintosh.

A simple text editor is ideal for learning HTML and CSS because it doesn't affect or change the codes you type. That way, your successes and errors can only be attributed to yourself - not the software.

You can use any browser with this tutorial. We encourage you to always keep your browser updated and use the latest version.

http://www.html

A browser and a simple text editor is all you need.

Let's get started!

Will W3Schools always be Completely Free? Yes. W3Schools will always be free.

What is CSS?

- CSS stands for Cascading Style Sheets
- Styles define how to display HTML elements
- Styles are normally stored in Style Sheets
- Styles were added to HTML 4.0 to solve a problem
- External Style Sheets can save you a lot of work
- External Style Sheets are stored in CSS files
- Multiple style definitions will cascade into one









Lesson 4: Text

Formatting and adding style to text is a key issue for any web designer. In this lesson you will be introduced to the amazing opportunities CSS gives you to add layout to text. The following properties will be described:

- * text-indent
- * text-align
- * text-decoration
- * letter-spacing
- * text-transform







The property text-indent allows you to add an elegant touch to text paragraphs by applying an indent to the first line of the paragraph. In the example below a 30px is applied to all text paragraphs marked with :

```
text-indent: 30px;
```



Text alignment [text-align]

The CSS property text-align corresponds to the attribute align used in old versions of HTML. Text can either be aligned to the left, to the right or centered. In addition to this, the value justify will stretch each line so that both the right and left margins are straight. You know this layout from for example newspapers and magazines.



In the example below the text in table headings is aligned to the right while the table data are centered. In addition, normal text paragraphs are justified:

```
th {
    text-align: right;
}

td {
    text-align: center;
}

p {
    text-align: justify;
}
```





Text decoration [text-decoration]



The property text-decoration makes it is possible to add different "decorations" or "effects" to text. For example, you can underline the text, have a line through or above the text, etc. In the following example, <h1> are underlined headlines, <h2> are headlines with a line above the text and <h3> are headlines with a line though the text.

```
h1 {
    text-decoration: underline;
}

h2 {
    text-decoration: overline;
}

h3 {
    text-decoration: line-through;
}
```

This is header 1

This is header 2

This is header 3

This is header 4

This is a link



Letter space [letter-spacing]

The spacing between text characters can be specified using the property letter-spacing. The value of the property is simply the desired width. For example, if you want a spacing of 3px between the letters in a text paragraph and 6px between letters in headlines <h1> the code below could be used.

```
h1 {
    letter-spacing: 6px;
}

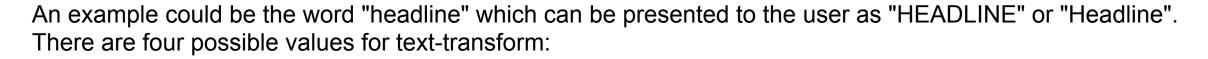
p {
    letter-spacing: 3px;
}
```





Text transformation [text-transform]

The text-transform property controls the capitalization of a text. You can choose to capitalize, use uppercase or lowercase regardless of how the original text is looks in the HTML code.



capitalize

Capitalizes the first letter of each word. For example: "john doe" will be "John Doe".

uppercase

Converts all letters to uppercase. For example: "john doe" will be "JOHN DOE".

lowercase

Converts all letters to lowercase. For example: "JOHN DOE" will be "john doe".

none

No transformations - the text is presented as it appears in the HTML code.



THIS HEADING IS UPPERCASE

- Peter Hanson
- Max Larson
- Joe Doe
- Paula Jones
- Monica Lewinsky
- Donald Duck

Notice, how we with CSS makes all the names capitalized

As an example, we will use a list of names. The names are all marked with (list-item). Let's say that we want names to be capitalized and headlines to be presented in uppercase letters.

Try to take a look at the HTML code for this example and you will see that the text actually is in lowercase.

```
h1 {
    text-transform: uppercase;
}

li {
    text-transform: capitalize;
}
```





```
<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Strict//EN"
      "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-strict.dtd">
<a href="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml" lang="en">
<head>
<title>Text transformation - Lesson 5, Example 5 | CSS Tutorial | HTML.net</title>
<meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html; charset=iso-8859-1" />
ex5.css" type="text/css" media="all" /
</head>
<body>
<h1>this heading is uppercase</h1>
<
peter hanson
max larson
ioe doe
paula jones
monica lewinsky
donald duck
Notice, how we with CSS makes all the names capitalized
</body>
</html>
```

CSS Text Properties

The CSS text properties allow you to control the appearance of text. It is possible to change the color of a text, increase or decrease the space between characters in a text, align a text, decorate a text, indent the first line in a text, and more.

Browser support: IE: Internet Explorer, F: Firefox, N: Netscape.

W3C: The number in the "W3C" column indicates in which CSS recommendation the property is defined (CSS1 or CSS2).

Property	Description	Values	IE	F	N	w3C	
color	Sets the color of a text	a text color		1	4	1	
direction	Sets the text direction	ltr rtl	6	1	6	2	
<u>line-height</u>	Sets the distance between lines	normal number length %	4	1	4	1	
letter-spacing	Increase or decrease the space between characters	normal length	4	1	6	1	
<u>text-align</u>	Aligns the text in an left element right center justify		4	1	4	1	
text-decoration	Adds decoration to text	none underline overline line-through blink	4	1	4	1	
text-indent	Indents the first line of text in an element	length %	4	1	4	1	
text-shadow		none color length					
text-transform	Controls the letters in an element	none capitalize uppercase lowercase	4	1	4	1	
unicode-bidi		normal embed bidi-override	5			2	
white-space	Sets how white space inside an element is handled	normal pre nowrap	5	1	4	1	
word-spacing	Increase or decrease the space between words	normal length	6	1	6	1	

This is header 1

This is header 2

This is header 3

This is header 4

This is a link

<html>

<head>

<style type="text/css">

h1 {text-decoration: overline}

h2 {text-decoration: line-through}

h3 {text-decoration: underline}

h4 {text-decoration: blink}

a {text-decoration: none}

</style> </head>

<body>

<h1>This is header 1</h1>

<h2>This is header 2</h2>

<h3>This is header 3</h3>

<h4>This is header 4</h4>

This is a link

</body>

</html>







Example - Color

<html>

```
<head>
<style type="text/css">
h1 {color: #00ff00}
h2 {color: #dda0dd}
p {color: rgb(0,0,255)}
</style>
</head>
```


<body>
<h1>This is header 1</h1>
<h2>This is header 2</h2>
This is a paragraph</body>

</html>





Definition
The color property

The color property sets the color of a text.

This is header 1

This is header 2

This is a paragraph

Value	Description
color	The color value can be a color name (red), a rgb value (rgb(255,0,0)), or a hex number (#ff0000).
	Default value: Browser dependent

CSS Color Names

The table below provides a list of the color names that are supported by all major browsers.

Note: If you want your pages to validate with an HTML or a CSS validator, W3C has listed 16 color names that you can use: aqua, black, blue, fuchsia, gray, green, lime, maroon, navy, olive, purple, red, silver, teal, white, and yellow. If you want to use other colors, you must specify their RGB or HEX value as follows:



Color Name	Color HEX	Color
AliceBlue	<u>#F0F8FF</u>	
<u>AntiqueWhite</u>	#FAEBD7	
<u>Aqua</u>	#00FFFF	
Aquamarine	<u>#7FFFD4</u>	
<u>Azure</u>	#F0FFFF	
Beige	<u>#F5F5DC</u>	
<u>Bisque</u>	#FFE4C4	
Black	#000000	
BlanchedAlmond	#FFEBCD	
Blue	#0000FF	
BlueViolet	#8A2BE2	
Brown	#A52A2A	
<u>BurlyWood</u>	#DEB887	



CadetBlue	#5F9EA0	
Chartreuse	#7FFF00	
Chocolate	#D2691E	
Coral	#FF7F50	
CornflowerBlue	#6495ED	
Cornsilk	#FFF8DC	
Crimson	#DC143C	
Cyan	#00FFFF	
DarkBlue	#00008B	
DarkCyan	#008B8B	
DarkGoldenRod	#B8860B	
DarkGray	#A9A9A9	
DarkGrey	#A9A9A9	
DarkGreen	#006400	
DarkKhaki	#BDB76B	
DarkMagenta	#8B008B	
<u>DarkOliveGreen</u>	#556B2F	
Darkorange	#FF8C00	
<u>DarkOrchid</u>	#9932CC	
DarkRed	#8B0000	
<u>DarkSalmon</u>	#E9967A	
<u>DarkSeaGreen</u>	#8FBC8F	
<u>DarkSlateBlue</u>	#483D8B	
<u>DarkSlateGray</u>	#2F4F4F	
<u>DarkSlateGrey</u>	#2F4F4F	
<u>DarkTurquoise</u>	#00CED1	
<u>DarkViolet</u>	#9400D3	
<u>DeepPink</u>	#FF1493	
<u>DeepSkyBlue</u>	#00BFFF	
DimGray	#696969	
DimGrey	#696969	
<u>DodgerBlue</u>	#1E90FF	





FireBrick	#B22222	
FloralWhite	#FFFAF0	
ForestGreen	#228B22	
Fuchsia	#FF00FF	
Gainsboro	#DCDCDC	
GhostWhite	#F8F8FF	
Gold	#FFD700	
GoldenRod	#DAA520	
Gray	#808080	
Grey	<u>#808080</u>	
Green	<u>#008000</u>	
GreenYellow	#ADFF2F	
HoneyDew	#F0FFF0	
HotPink	#FF69B4	
IndianRed	#CD5C5C	
<u>Indigo</u>	#4B0082	
Ivory	#FFFF0	
<u>Khaki</u>	#F0E68C	
Lavender	<u>#E6E6FA</u>	
<u>LavenderBlush</u>	<u>#FFF0F5</u>	
<u>LawnGreen</u>	#7CFC00	
LemonChiffon	#FFFACD	
<u>LightBlue</u>	#ADD8E6	
<u>LightCoral</u>	#F08080	
LightCyan	#E0FFFF	
LightGoldenRodYellow	#FAFAD2	
<u>LightGray</u>	<u>#D3D3D3</u>	
<u>LightGrey</u>	<u>#D3D3D3</u>	
<u>LightGreen</u>	#90EE90	
<u>LightPink</u>	#FFB6C1	
<u>LightSalmon</u>	#FFA07A	
<u>LightSeaGreen</u>	#20B2AA	
<u>LightSkyBlue</u>	#87CEFA	
<u>LightSlateGray</u>	<u>#778899</u>	
LightSlateGrey	<u>#778899</u>	
<u>LightSteelBlue</u>	#B0C4DE	
LightYellow	#FFFFE0	
Lime	#00FF00	
LimeGreen	#32CD32	
Linen	#FAF0E6	







<u>Magenta</u>	#FF00FF	
Maroon	#800000	
<u>MediumAquaMarine</u>	#66CDAA	
<u>MediumBlue</u>	#0000CD	
<u>MediumOrchid</u>	#BA55D3	
<u>MediumPurple</u>	#9370D8	
<u>MediumSeaGreen</u>	#3CB371	
<u>MediumSlateBlue</u>	#7B68EE	
<u>MediumSpringGreen</u>	#00FA9A	
<u>MediumTurquoise</u>	#48D1CC	
<u>MediumVioletRed</u>	#C71585	
<u>MidnightBlue</u>	<u>#191970</u>	
<u>MintCream</u>	#F5FFFA	
<u>MistyRose</u>	#FFE4E1	
Moccasin	<u>#FFE4B5</u>	
<u>NavajoWhite</u>	#FFDEAD	
Navy	<u>#000080</u>	
<u>OldLace</u>	<u>#FDF5E6</u>	
<u>Olive</u>	<u>#808000</u>	
<u>OliveDrab</u>	#6B8E23	
<u>Orange</u>	<u>#FFA500</u>	
<u>OrangeRed</u>	<u>#FF4500</u>	
<u>Orchid</u>	<u>#DA70D6</u>	
<u>PaleGoldenRod</u>	#EEE8AA	
<u>PaleGreen</u>	<u>#98FB98</u>	
<u>PaleTurquoise</u>	<u>#AFEEEE</u>	
<u>PaleVioletRed</u>	<u>#D87093</u>	
<u>PapayaWhip</u>	#FFEFD5	
<u>PeachPuff</u>	#FFDAB9	
<u>Peru</u>	#CD853F	
<u>Pink</u>	#FFC0CB	
<u>Plum</u>	#DDA0DD	
<u>PowderBlue</u>	<u>#B0E0E6</u>	
<u>Purple</u>	<u>#800080</u>	



Red	#FF0000	
RosyBrown	#BC8F8F	
RoyalBlue	#4169E1	
SaddleBrown	#8B4513	
Salmon	#FA8072	
SandyBrown	#F4A460	
<u>SeaGreen</u>	#2E8B57	
<u>SeaShell</u>	#FFF5EE	
Sienna	#A0522D	
Silver	#C0C0C0	
SkyBlue	#87CEEB	
<u>SlateBlue</u>	#6A5ACD	
<u>SlateGray</u>	<u>#708090</u>	
SlateGrey	<u>#708090</u>	
Snow	#FFFAFA	
<u>SpringGreen</u>	#00FF7F	
<u>SteelBlue</u>	#4682B4	
<u>Tan</u>	#D2B48C	
<u>Teal</u>	<u>#008080</u>	
<u>Thistle</u>	#D8BFD8	
<u>Tomato</u>	#FF6347	
<u>Turquoise</u>	#40E0D0	
<u>Violet</u>	#EE82EE	
Wheat	#F5DEB3	
White	#FFFFF	
WhiteSmoke	#F5F5F5	
Yellow	#FFFF00	
<u>YellowGreen</u>	#9ACD32	





```
<html>
<head>
                            Example –
<style type="text/css">
span.highlight
                          Background
background-color:yellow
</style>
                                  Color
</head>
<body>
>
<span class="highlight">This is a text./span> This is a text. This is
a text. This is a text. This is a text. This is a text. This
is a text. This is a text. <span class="highlight">This is a text.</
span>
</body>
```





</html>

This is a text. This is a text.

<html> <head> <style type="text/css"> h1 {letter-spacing: -3px} h4 {letter-spacing: 0.5cm} </style> </head> <body> <h1>This is header 1</h1> <h4>This is header 4</h4> </body>

</html>





This is header 1

This is header 4



<html> <head> <style type="text/css"> p.small {line-height: 90%} p.big {line-height: 200%} </style> </head> <body> > This is a paragraph with a standard line-height. The default line height in most browsers is about 110% to 120%. This is a paragraph with a standard line-height. This is a paragraph with a standard line-height. This is a paragraph with a smaller line-height. This is a paragraph with a bigger line-height. </body> </html>





Example – Line height

This is a paragraph with a standard line-height. The default line height in most browsers is about 110% to 120%. This is a paragraph with a standard line-height. This is a paragraph with a standard line-height.

This is a paragraph with a smaller line-height. This is a paragraph with a smaller line-height. This is a paragraph with a smaller line-height. This is a paragraph with a smaller line-height.

This is a paragraph with a bigger line-height. This is a paragraph with a bigger line-height. This

is a paragraph with a bigger line-height. This is a paragraph with a bigger line-height.

<html>

<head>

<style type="text/css">

h1 {text-align: center}

h2 {text-align: left}

h3 {text-align: right}

</style>

</head>

<body>

<h1>This is header 1</h1>

<h2>This is header 2</h2>

<h3>This is header 3</h3>

</body>

</html>







This is header 1

This is header 2

This is header 3

```
<html>
<head>
<style type="text/css">
p {text-indent: 1cm}
</style>
</head>
<body>
>
This is some text in a paragraph
</body>
</html>
```





This is some text in a paragraph This is some text in a paragraph





```
<html>
<head>
<style type="text/css">
p.uppercase {text-transform: uppercase}
p.lowercase {text-transform: lowercase}
p.capitalize {text-transform: capitalize}
</style>
</head>
<body>
This is some text in a
paragraph
This is some text in a
paragraph
This is some text in a paragraph/
p>
</body>
</html>
```



Example – Transform

THIS IS SOME TEXT IN A PARAGRAPH

this is some text in a paragraph

This Is Some Text In A Paragraph

CSS Gradient Text Effect

Do you want to create fancy headings without rendering each heading with Photoshop? Here is a simple CSS trick to show you how to create gradient text effect with a PNG image (pure CSS, no Javascript or Flash). All you need is an empty tag in the heading and apply the background image overlay using the CSS position:absolute property. This trick has been tested on most browsers: Firefox, Safari, Opera, and even Internet Explorer 6.







Benefits

- * This is pure CSS trickery.
- * It is perfect for designing headings. You don't have to render each heading with Photoshop. This will save you time and bandwidth.
 - * You can use on any web fonts and the font size remains scalable.

How does this work?

The trick is very simple. Basically we are just adding a 1px gradient PNG (with alpha transparency) over the text.

The HTML markups

<h1>CSS Gradient Text</h1>

The CSS

```
The key point here is: h1 { position: relative } and h1 span { position: absolute }
```

```
h1 {
  font: bold 330%/100% "Lucida Grande";
  position: relative;
  color: #464646;
}
h1 span {
  background: url(gradient.png) repeat-x;
  position: absolute;
  display: block;
  width: 100%;
  height: 31px;
}
```

That's it! You are done.



You will need to create a gradient

CSS Gradient Text

How about Georgia?

BLACK GLOSSY LINK

Dark on Light Sample









