



Developing Stylesheets for Online Help

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Overview

- CSS overview
- Formatting links
- Layering information
- Customizing lists
- Creating a print-specific layout
- Formatting tables
- Designing without tables
- User customizable help

CSS Overview

- Recommended sizing units
- IDs and classes
- Margins and padding
- 'Stacking' headings

Recommended sizing units

Print

- text: use points (pt)

Screen

- text: use ems or % (percentage)
- margins, padding: use pixels (px)
- tables: use % (for liquid layout) or px (for fixed)

IDs and classes

IDs

- Only one element can use a specific ID.
`<p id="firstPara">My first paragraph...</p>`

```
#firstPara { color: #00FF00; }
```

Classes

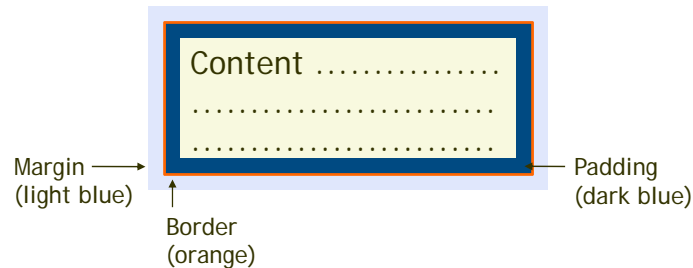
- Many elements can share the same class.
`<p class="printOnly">Text`

```
.printOnly { color: #00FF00; }
```

- ✦ It's much easier to find elements with IDs (using JavaScript's `getElementById` method) than elements with classes.

Margins and padding

- **Margins** are space around the **outside** of an element.
- **Padding** is space **inside** the element between its borders and content.



'Stacking' headings



```
h1, h2 { margin-top: 3em; }
```

```
h1+h2 { margin-top: -3em; }
```

Formatting links

- ❑ Removing underlines
- ❑ Highlighting links on hover or when clicked
- ❑ Using dotted underlines
- ❑ Styling external and email links
- ❑ Styling document links
- ❑ Adding link icons

Removing underlines

Sample link

```
a:link a:visited a:hover a:active {  
    text-decoration: none;  
}
```

Highlighting links on hover or during click

```
a:hover, a:active {  
    color: #FF0000;  
    background-color: #FFFF00;  
}
```

Using a dotted underline

[Sample link](#)

```
a {
  text-decoration: none;
  border-bottom: 1px dotted #000000;
}
```

Styling external and email links

```
a[href^="http:"] {
  color: #FF00FF;
}
```

```
a[href^="mailto:"] {
  color: #0000FF;
}
```

⚠ Only works for IE in "strict mode."

Styling links to documents

```
a[href$=".pdf"] {  
    color: #AA00FF;  
}
```

```
a[href$=".doc"] {  
    color: #AA00FF;  
}
```

🔗 Only works for IE in "strict mode."

Adding link icons

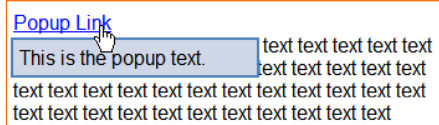
[Sample external link ↩](#)

```
a[href^="http:"] {  
    background: url(linkarrow.gif) no-repeat right;  
    padding-right: 20px;  
}
```

Layering information

- Formatting popups
- Formatting hover text
- Showing/hiding all layers

Formatting popups



```
<span id="term1" class="popup">This is the popup text.</span>
```

```
<a href="javascript:void(0);"
  onmouseover="showPopup('term1');"
  onmouseout="hidePopup('term1');">Popup Link</a>
```


Formatting popups

```
.popup
{
  position:absolute; left:8; top:36; width:200;
  border: solid 2px #4F81BD;
  background-color:#D0D8E8;
  padding: 5px;
  z-index:2;
  visibility:hidden;
}
```

Formatting popups

```
<script language="JavaScript">
function showPopup(id) {
  document.getElementById(id).style.visibility = "visible";
}

function hidePopup(id) {
  document.getElementById(id).style.visibility = "hidden";
}
</script>
```

Formatting hover text

```
a span { display:none; }
a:hover span {
  display:inline;
  position:absolute;
  padding-left: 4px;
}
```

```
<a href="javascript:;">My link<span>Popup text</span></a>
```

Showing/hiding all layers

[Show all](#)

The brown fox jumped over the lazy dog.

```
<a href="javascript:void(0);"
onClick="showHide(this)">Show all</a>
```

```
<p>The<span class="hideInfo"> quick</span> brown fox
jumped over the<span class="hideInfo"> lazy</span>
dog.</p>
```

🔗 Built-in option in Flare's WebHelp toolbar.

Showing/hiding all layers

```
<script>
function showHide(obj) {
if (obj.innerHTML == "Show all")
    { showEm(obj); }
else { hideEm(obj); }
}

function hideEm(obj) {
for (i = 0; i < document.all.length; i++) {
if (document.all[i].className) {
    document.all[i].className = "hideInfo";
    obj.innerHTML = "Show all";
}}}

function showEm(obj) {
for (i = 0; i < document.all.length; i++) {
if (document.all[i].className) {
    document.all[i].className = "showInfo";
    obj.innerHTML = "Hide all";
}}}
</script>
```

Customizing lists

- Using an image as a bullet
- Adding bullets to non-lists
- Removing list indentation

Using an image as a bullet

- ▶ List item 1
- ▶ List item 2

```
ul {  
  list-style-image: url(arrow.gif);  
}
```

Add bullet icons to non-lists

 This is a note.

```
.note {  
  background: url(pencil.gif) no-repeat left center;  
  padding-left: 20px;  
}
```

Removing indentation in lists

Sample content ...

- Bullet item 1
- Bullet item 2
- Bullet item 3

More content ...

```
ul {  
    padding-left:1em;  
    margin-left: 0px;  
}
```

Creating a print-specific layout

- Specifying a print-specific stylesheet
- Adding automatic page breaks
- Hiding elements in print
- Changing the background color and image
- Specifying a serif font
- Showing link URLs when the user prints
- Removing link colors and underlining

Specifying a print-specific stylesheet

Separate 'print' CSS files

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

Print-specific styles in a general CSS file

```
@media print {
```

```
...
```

```
}
```

Adding automatic page breaks

```
h1 {  
    page-break-before: always;  
}
```

Hiding elements in print

```
<div class="onlineOnly">
  <p>text text text text</p>
</div>

<span class="onlineOnly">...</span>
<p class="onlineOnly">...</p>

<style>
.onlineOnly {
  display: none;
}
</style>
```

Changing the background color and image

```
@media print {
  * {
    color: black;
    background-color: white !important;
    background-image: none !important;
  }
}
```

Specifying a serif font

```
body {  
  background: white;  
  font-size: 12pt;  
  font-family: 'times';  
}
```

Showing link URLs in print

Visit **ClickStart** (<http://www.clickstart.net>) ...

```
a:link:after, a:visited:after {  
  content: " (" attr(href) ) ";  
}  
a[href^="/"]:after {  
  content: " (http://www.yourwebsite.com" attr(href) )  
  ";  
}
```

⚠ Doesn't work in Internet Explorer.

Removing link colors and underlining

```
a:link, a:visited {  
  color: black;  
  text-decoration: none;  
}
```

Formatting tables

- Alternating row background colors
 - Highlighting rows on hover
-

Alternating row background colors

a	b	tableRowFirst
c	d	tableRowEven
e	f	tableRowOdd
g	h	tableRowEven
j	k	tableRowOdd
l	m	tableRowEven

Alternating row background colors

```
<script>
function formatTables() {
var allTables = document.all.tags("TABLE");
for (i = 0; i < allTables.length; i++) {
var rows =
  allTables(i).getElementsByTagName("tr");
for (j = 0; j < rows.length; j++) {
if (j == 0) {
rows[j].className = "tableRowFirst";
}
else {
if (j % 2 == 0) { rows[j].className =
  "tableRowEven"; }
else { rows[j].className =
  "tableRowOdd"; } } } }
</script>
```

```
<style>
.tableRowFirst {
  background-color: #4F81BD; }
.tableRowOdd {
  background-color: #D0D8E8; }
.tableRowEven {
  background-color: #FFFFFF; }
</style>
```

Highlighting rows on hover

Field	Description
Name	Your name.
Password	Your password.

```
tr:hover {  
    background-color: #D0D8E8;  
}
```

Designing without tables

- Non-scrolling region
- Floating images

Creating a non-scrolling region

```
<div id="head">
<h1>Page Title</h1>
</div>

<div id="content">
<p>Page content</p>
</div>
```

Page Title

Page content

.....

.....

.....

Creating a non-scrolling region

```
html {
  height: 100%;
  max-height: 100%;
  /* hide overflow: hidden from
  IE5 Mac */
  /*\*/
  overflow: hidden;
  /**/
}

body {
  height: 100%;
  max-height: 100%;
  overflow: hidden;
  padding: 0;
  margin: 0;
}
```

Creating a non-scrolling region

```
#head {
  position: absolute;
  top: 0;
  width: 100%;
  min-width: 100%;
  height: 50px;
  z-index: 3;
  border-bottom: 1px solid #000000;
}

html #head {
  top: 2px;
  height: 48px;
  width: 100%;
}
```

Creating a non-scrolling region

```
#content {
  position: absolute;
  display: block;
  overflow: auto;
  z-index: 2;
  top: 50px;
  bottom: 0;
  width: 100%;
}

* html #content {
  top: 0;
  bottom: 0;
  height: 100%;
  width: 100%;
  border-top: 50px solid #ffffff;
}
```

Floating images



Long Beach is a city located in southern Los Angeles County, California, USA, on the Pacific coast. It borders Orange County on its southeast edge. It is about 20 miles (30 km) south of downtown Los Angeles.

The R.M.S. Queen Mary has been located in Long Beach since her retirement in 1967 and now serves as a hotel, convention center, and tourist attraction, which some visitors like to claim is haunted. The Aquarium of the Pacific, a world-class research facility, is a popular tourist destination. Long Beach also has the largest municipally owned marina in the country with 3,400 slips.

```
img {  
  float: left;  
  margin-right: 12px;  
}
```

User customizable help

- Changing the font size
- Changing the stylesheet

Changing the font size or stylesheet

```
<link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="default.css" id="default" />
<link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="larger.css" id="larger" />
```

```
<script>
document.getElementById('larger').disabled=true;

function changeCSS(reqCSS) {
if (reqCSS == 'larger') { document.getElementById('larger').disabled=false;
document.getElementById('default').disabled=true; }
else { document.getElementById('larger').disabled=true;
document.getElementById('default').disabled=false; }
}
</script>
```

Resources

Cascading Style Sheets: Designing for the Web
Hakon Lie and Bert Bos

CSS Web Site Design Hands on Training
Eric Meyer

CSS Anthology: 101 Essential Tips, Tricks & Hacks
Rachel Andrew

CSS Mastery: Advanced Web Standards Solutions
Andy Budd, Simon Collison, and Cameron Moll

Discussion group
www.css-discuss.org

CSS validator
jigsaw.w3.org/css-validator

Questions?

Send me an e-mail, and I'll be glad to help.

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ClickStart

About ClickStart

ClickStart provides certified training and consulting for:

- MadCap Flare
- Adobe RoboHelp
- Adobe Captivate

We offer public, online, and private (onsite) classes, and group discounts are available. See www.clickstart.net for more information.

If you need help:

- Learning Flare, RoboHelp, or Captivate
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- Designing stylesheets for online help
- Creating use cases and wireframes/prototypes
- Developing Web-based training
- Adding embedding user assistance or context-sensitive help to an application

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