

# CSS Best Practices

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In this session, I will share best practices for using CSS to design responsive user assistance (UA).

## CSS best practices

- Do not use inline formatting
- Organize definitions and use a naming convention
- Add comments
- Use a reset/normalize stylesheet - [meyerweb.com/eric/tools/css/reset](http://meyerweb.com/eric/tools/css/reset) or [necolas.github.io/normalize.css](http://necolas.github.io/normalize.css)
- Use an auto-prefixer to support old browsers and new features
- Use DRY ("Don't Repeat Yourself") techniques
- Make selectors as specific as possible
- Remove unused CSS rules
- Test in multiple browsers on multiple devices
- Keep learning

## What's new in CSS

- `::grammar-error` pseudo element
- `::spelling-error` pseudo element
- `:fullscreen` (aka full-screen) pseudo class
- `:target` pseudo class and `scroll-snap` property
- `calc()` function
- `@supports` rule
- variables

## Browser compatibility

- Auto-prefix: [leaverou.github.io/prefixfree](http://leaverou.github.io/prefixfree) and [github.com/ai/autoprefixer](http://github.com/ai/autoprefixer)
- IE compatibility: [www.selectivizr.com](http://www.selectivizr.com) and [github.com/postcss/postcss](http://github.com/postcss/postcss)
- `@supports` rule: `@supports ( --css: variables ) { ... }`

## DRY (Don't Repeat Yourself) coding

### Grouping Selectors

```
h1, h2, h3, h4, h5, h6 { color: green; }
```

### rems measurement unit

```
p { font-size: .9rem; }
```

## Code samples

Prism ([www.prismjs.com](http://www.prismjs.com))

## Icon fonts

- Google Material Design: [material.io/tools/icons](https://material.io/tools/icons)
- Font Awesome: [www.fontawesome.com](http://www.fontawesome.com)

## Variables

```
:root { --main-bg-color: orange; }  
.exBox { background-color: var(--main-bg-color); color: white; width: 50px; height: 50px; }  
.exText { background-color: var(--main-bg-color); color: white; }
```

## currentColor variable

```
a { color: blue; }  
p.currColor { color: red; }  
p.currColor a { color: currentcolor; border-bottom: 1px dashed currentcolor; }
```

## calc() function

```
:root { --fontSize: 1rem; }  
h6 { font-size: calc(var(--fontSize) * 2); }
```

## Example: display: grid

```
.wrapper { display: grid; grid-gap: 20px; grid-template-columns: repeat(auto-fit, 9rem); grid-  
template-rows: repeat(2, 12rem); }  
.wrapper div { background-color: green; color: white; border-radius: 6px; font-size: 10rem; text-  
align: center; }
```

## Example: system-ui font

```
body { font-family: system-ui, -apple-system, BlinkMacSystemFont, "Segoe UI", Roboto, Oxygen-  
Sans, Ubuntu, Cantarell, "Helvetica Neue", sans-serif; }
```

## Example: link target formatting

```
*:target { background-color: yellow; }
```

## Example: responsive images

```
img { min-height : auto; min-width : 480px; /* max width of mobile medium */ max-height : auto;  
max-width : 100%; }
```

## Example: responsive tables

```
/* 47.9375em mobile landscape max width */
@media (max-width: 47.9375em) {
table { display: block; width: 100%; }
table thead { display: none; visibility: hidden; }
table tbody, table tr, table th, table td { border: 0; display: block; text-align: left; }
table th[data-title]:before, table td[data-title]:before { content: attr(data-title) " "; font-weight:
bold; }
table td:empty { display: none; }
}
```

## What's next for CSS

- Case insensitivity — `p[class$="example" i] { ... }`
- Media queries — display size, color depth, aspect ratio
- Overflow — fade, fragment formatting
- Nesting
- revert keyword
- Selectors — custom and parent

## How to track CSS developments

- [w3.org/style/css/current-work](http://w3.org/style/css/current-work)
- [ishoudinireadyyet.com](http://ishoudinireadyyet.com)

## Where to find CSS examples

- [codepad.co](http://codepad.co)
- [codepen.com](http://codepen.com)
- [css-tricks.com](http://css-tricks.com)
- [cssdeck.com](http://cssdeck.com)
- [lea.verou.me](http://lea.verou.me)

## About the presenter

Scott DeLoach is the Founder of Click**Start**, where he provides training and consulting for MadCap Flare, embedded user assistance, CSS, HTML5, and the design and development of policies and procedures, online help, and knowledge bases. Scott has been developing browser-based help systems for over 20 years, and he has received four Best in Show awards for his work from STC. He is an STC Fellow.

Scott is a certified Flare instructor, and he is the author of MadCap Flare 2018: The Definitive Guide, CSS to the Point, and HTML5 to the Point. For more information, see [www.clickstart.net](http://www.clickstart.net).

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