CSS Selectors

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 tag_name, id, class.
- Combinator Selectors: select elements based on a specific relationship between elements.
- Pseudo-class Selectors: select elements based on a certain state.
- Attribute Selectors: select elements based on an attribute or attribute value.

The CSS Element Selector

The element selector selects HTML elements based on the element (tag) name.

Example:

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

The code above selects all the <p> tags and make them aligned at centre.

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 a specific element.

To select an element with a specific id, write a hash (#) character, followed by the id of the element.

For example:

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

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 name of the class.

For example:

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

You can also specify that only specific HTML elements should be affected by a class.

For example:

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

HTML elements can also refer to more than one class.

```
<p class="center large">   </p>
```

The Universal Selector

The wildcard (*) character is used as universal selector. The properties set with this selector affect all the elements (tags) in a document.

It is important that you don't use the selector on its own as it can make a mess of a document. You can use it as a part of a compound rule.

For example:

```
#boxout * p {
  border: 1px solid green;
}
```

The above code would select all the <p> tags in any element that has their id= "boxout".

Selecting by Group

Using CSS, you can apply a rule to more than one element, class, or any other type of selector at the

same time by separating the selectors with commas. So, for example, the following rule will place a dotted orange line underneath all paragraphs, the element with the Id of idname, and all elements that use the class classname:

```
p, #idname, .classname {
  border-bottom: 1px dotted orange;
}
```

The Attribute Selector

Many HTML tags support attributes, and using this type of selector can save you from having to use Ids and Classes to refer to them. For example, you can directly reference attributes in the following manner, which sets all elements with the attribute type="submit" to a width of 100pixels:

```
[type="submit"] {
  width: 100px;
}
```

If you wish to narrow down the scope of the selector to, for example, only form input

elements with that attribute type, you could use the following rule instead:

```
form input[type="submit"] {
  width: 100px;
}
```

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