

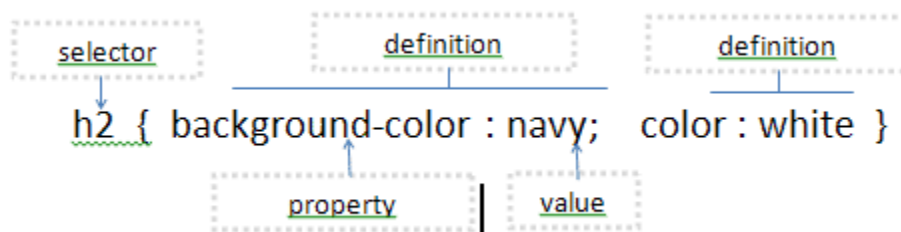
## CSS Basics

Cascading style sheets (CSS) is a collection of formatting rules (CSS rules) that control appearance of the elements on your web page.

### CSS Rules

**CSS rule** - is a block of code that instructs web browsers how to access and modify the individual HTML elements.

#### Anatomy of CSS rule



As shown in the preceding figure, background color for h2 is set to navy color and the color of the text is set to white.

**Selector** – **h2** - is the element you want to affect. The styles will be automatically applied to all the instances of the `<h2>` tag on your web page.

**Property** – **background-color** – is the characteristic of the element you would like to change. Property must have value, such as **navy**.

**Definition** consists of property and value separated by colon. You can have as many definitions as you want, but definition must be separated by semicolon (;)

### CSS comments

If you want a particular rule (or a definition) in a style sheet to be ignored, you can comment out the code, by placing it between the `/*` and `*/` characters. In the following example, the `background-color navy` will be ignored.

```
h2 {  
/* background-color:navy; */  
color:white;  
}
```

### CSS Inheritance

The word "Cascading" refers to inheritance, or parent-child relationship. The style you define will flow, or cascade, throughout the document, unless another style defined inside of a page overrides it.

For example, if you set the color of the text for the entire body (parent) to blue, all the textual elements inside of the body (such as paragraphs) will inherit this font color.

## Applying CSS styles

There are four ways to apply styles:

- Linking (external styles)
- Importing (external styles)
- Embedding (internal styles)
- Inline (styles applied directly to specific HTML element)

### Linked (external) style sheets

The first two methods refer to **external style sheets** – separate plain text files that use the **.css** file name extension. These files contain nothing but CSS rules. External (linked or imported) styles allow you to apply the CSS formatting to multiple web pages.

### Embedded styles

Embedded styles define styles for a single page.

### Inline Styles

Inline styles provide quick temporary style changes to existing HTML code, such as applying font color to a word or a character in the text.

## Applying External Style sheets

To control multiple pages with a separate style sheet, each page must be linked to CSS file, using **<link/>** tag. This tag must be added within **<head>** and **</head>** of each HTML document

**<link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="path to .css file" />**

## Imported CSS styles

Imported CSS styles work the same way as linked. However, using this method, you can import styles from one CSS stylesheet to another. The syntax for using the import method is as follows:

```
<style type="text/css">
@import url(main.css);
</style>
```

This block of code must be inserted inside **<head>** section of your HTML document..

## Embedded Styles

The embedded styles define formatting for a single page. Must be inserted within `<head>` and `</head>` tags.

```
<head>
  <style type="text/css">
    h1 {
background-color: navy;
color:white;
    }
  p{
text-indent: 10%;
  }
</style>
</head>
```

## Inline styles

Inline styles are added directly to HTML tags using **style** attribute. The **style** attribute can be used with any HTML tag.

Example:

```
<h1 style="background-color:none; color:black">Page heading </h1>
```

**<span>** tag is often used to make quick occasional changes to the text on the web page.

**<span>** tag is a replacement of deprecated **<font>** tag that is used to modify font face, color, and size.

Example:

```
<span style ="font-size:36pt; color:#FF0000">Note:</span>
```

Inline styles should be used only for occasional changes. If you plan to use the same inline style more than once in a page, you should consider defining it as a rule in external style sheet.

## CSS Cascading Order

Inline styles take precedence over embedded styles; embedded take precedence over external styles.

In another words, the more specific CSS rule the higher is its cascade priority.

For example, If an external file sheet sets the color of `<blockquote>` content to green, and an embedded style on the specific web page sets the `<blockquote>` content to red, the text inside of the `<blockquote>` element will be displayed in red on that page.