

Introduction to CSS

INTRODUCTION

Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) is the language that specifies how HTML elements are formatted. For example, HTML is used to declare an element as a heading, but CSS can be used to specify the font, size, positioning and other characteristics of that heading.

In this activity, you will use CSS to style HTML elements and get an introductory understanding of how these two languages work together.

PROCEDURE

1. Open your previous project and run the code by clicking **Show>In a New Window**.
2. Remix the project, and give it a descriptive and recognizable name.
3. As you work your way through this activity, you will observe how the web page changes with changes in the CSS code. Take a moment now to note the fonts and colors of the various elements of your web page.
4. In the index.html tab, find the line of code that links the CSS information. Note that it calls the .css file with this format:

```
<link rel="stylesheet" href="/style.css">
```

where style.css is the name of the reference location.

1. In the style.css tab, replace the existing CSS code with the following:

```
/* CSS files add styling rules to your content */
body {
  font-family: helvetica, arial, sans-serif;
  margin: 2em;
}
h1 {
  font-style: italic;
  color: #373fff;
}
```

2. View your web page again, and document how it has changed.

3. Use the information in the following table to examine your CSS until you understand how each line is controlling your web page. Note that not all of the CSS in the table is currently found in your CSS, but you may make use of it in later parts of this activity.

CSS	Example	Description
color	<code>color: #373fff</code>	Color can be specified in a number of ways. <code>color: #373fff</code> is a hexadecimal color indicator. The first pair ("37") represents the red contribution, the second ("3f") represents the green contribution, and the final pair ("ff") represents the blue contribution. The alpha numeric values range from 0 to f, where a–f comes after 9.
font-family	<code>font-family: helvetica, arial, sans-serif;</code>	The first two fonts are specific styles and the last is a general family of fonts. The web page will use the first supported font in the list. Note: Not all fonts are supported by all web browsers.
font-style	<code>font-style: italic;</code>	Font style can be specified as normal, italic, or oblique. Italic and oblique are similar to one another.
font-weight	<code>font-weight: bold;</code>	Font weight can be specified by normal, bold, bolder, lighter, or by weight number where 400 is normal and 700 is bold.
font-size	<code>font-size: 12px;</code>	Font size can be specified by px, %, or standard sizes (medium is default).
margin	<code>margin: 2em;</code>	The value 2em refers to two times the font size. CSS lengths (such as the margin value) can be absolute (e.g., "10px"), or relative, as in the case of 2em.
text-align	<code>text-align: left;</code>	Options include left, right, center, and justify.

4. In the CSS, change the formatting in the body element code as follows:
- Change the margin: `margin: 200px;`
 - Set the font color to a shade of purple: `color: #aa00aa;`
5. Relaunch the web page and confirm that the text in the body is magenta and that the elements are further from both the left and top edges than they were before.

6. Change the formatting in the heading element (h1), by adding the following style parameters:
 - font-weight to "bold"
 - font-family to "montserrat", "fantasy", and "sans-serif"
 - font-size to "60px"
 - text-align to "center"
 - color to a dark turquoise (e.g., #007580)
7. Again, preview the web page in a new window, and check that the header's appearance matches all the changes you made.
8. In addition to specifying how text is formatted, CSS can be used to change the look of elements such as buttons. One at a time, add the following styles to the button on your web page. After adding each line, look at your web page to see how the button's appearance has been modified.
 - a. To get started and change the background color of the button, add these lines to your CSS.

```
button {  
    background-color: lightgray;  
}
```
 - b. Now, change the border of the button by adding the following line to the button code:

```
border: none;
```
 - c. Using what you learned in previous steps for modifying color and font-size, make the following changes to your button:
 - i. Change the color to "green"
 - ii. Change the font size to "32px"
9. Experiment with these settings until you like the look of your button. You can find additional setting options by searching the internet for a CSS reference.

This introduction to CSS scratches the surface of what is possible. After completing this activity you may want to explore the range of tools available to you by accessing one of several online references.