



# In Depth Web Design Week 2: CSS

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## Assigning Styles

- CSS Styles can be defined in the following ways:
  - Inline: right in the HTML code
  - In the document head, between `<style><!-- [styles go here]--></style>` tags
  - In an external stylesheet document with the extension `.css` and linked in the head in the form `<link rel= "stylesheet" type= "text/css" href= "folder/document.css" />`
  - The browser default styles may be left alone
- External stylesheets and default styles are recommended.

## In the CSS

- Style definitions should appear in a clear order – either hierarchically or by category
- Stylesheets should have some formatting, I like to give each property-value pair a new line and tab it in.
- Comments may appear in the form `/* comments! */`
- Each style definition takes the form `selector {property: value;}`, for example `p {color: green;}`
- Different elements that have the same style can be grouped together with commas, for instance: `h1, p {color:green;}`
- Styles for classes are defined as a dot, the name of the class, then the style definitions as follows: `p.intro { [styles]}` or simply `.intro { [styles]}`
- Styles for IDs are defined as a number sign, the name of the class, then the style definitions as follows: `ul#navigation { [styles]}` or simply `#navigation { [styles]}`
- Styles can be defined by the elements they reside inside of, for instance:  
`ul#navigation a { [styles]}` applies those styles to any links (a) inside of unordered lists (ul) with id navigation.

## In the HTML: Some bonus tags just for styling

- The `<div>` and `<span>` tags can be used to surround content that needs more specific styles.
  - `div`: used for structural blocks, can enclose multiple other HTML tags.
  - `span`: used for little snippets of text within a larger bunch of text.
- Use these attributes to make tags specific:
  - `id`: used when that element is the single of its type on the page, for instance: `<ul id="navigation">`, if there is only one navigation bar on the page.
  - `class`: used when multiple elements on a page need that style, for instance: `<span class="yellow">` when multiple bits of text need to be styled yellow.
- Classes and IDs should be lower case, not starting with numbers, and with no spaces.

## Resources

- W3Schools: Tutorials and references on CSS: <http://www.w3schools.com/css/>
- A List Apart: Articles on CSS and HTML: <http://alistapart.com/>
- Color value reference: <http://www.visibone.com/colorlab/big.html>

**Next week: Dreamweaver and other web tools: March 6 @ 2 PM!**