

CSS SELECTORS

What is a CSS selector ?

CSS selector selects the elements on an HTML page which match pattern described in a selector and style rules adheres to the selector are applied on those selected elements.

CSS selector syntax

```
selector1 combinator selector2 combinator selector3  
combinator..... selectorN
```

If a CSS statement is like

```
selector1 combinator selector2 combinator selector3 combinator..... selectorN  
{property : value; ..... }
```

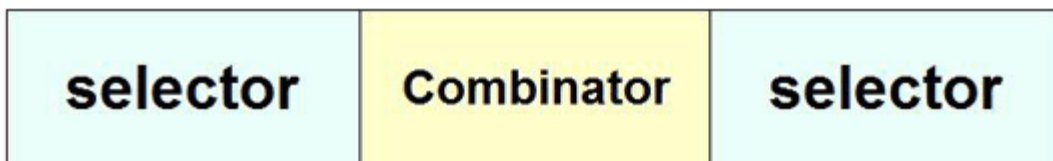
then, a CSS selector is a chain of identifiers (to identify and select HTML elements) separated with combinators (e.g. +, ~ etc.) up to the first curly brace of a CSS statement.

Types of CSS selectors

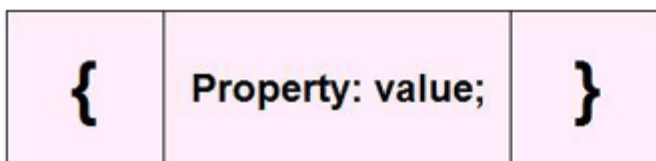
Type	Hint (x and y are two different elements)
Grouping of selector	x, y
Universal selector	*
Type selectors	Elementname
Descendant selectors	x y
Child selectors	x > y
Adjacent sibling selectors	x + y
Attribute selectors	[att] [att=val] [att~=val] [att =val] where att = attribute
Default attribute values	In XML you need to declare attributes in an DTD file. You must take care

in DTDs	that a respective stylesheet must select attributes even if the default values are not included in the document tree.
Class selectors	.classname
ID selectors	#idname
Pseudo-elements	:first-line :first-letter :before and :after
Pseudo-classes	:first-child :link and :visited :hover, :active, and :focus :lang

Pictorial presentation of CSS selector



.....



Example of CSS selector

[view plainprint?](#)

```

1. <!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-
   //W3C//DTD HTML 4.01//EN" "http://www.w3.org/TR/html4/strict.dtd">
2. <html>
3. <head>
4. <meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html; charset=iso-8859-1">
5. <title>CSS selector example</title>
6. <style type="text/css">
7. p {
8. width: 500px;

```

```
9. border: 1px solid silver;
10.color: maroon;
11.padding: 5px;
12.}
13.</style>
14.</head>
15.<body>
16.<h1>Example of CSS selector</h1>
17.<p>Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Pellentesque a
    interdum turpis. Sed viverra odio a leo aliquam porttitor. Duis sed sodale
    s purus. Vestibulum lacus lorem, aliquam ut tincidunt a, pretium id ante.

18.<p>
19.Duis eget nisi sem, eu dignissim lorem. Suspendisse sit amet lorem leo. Nu
    llam euismod posuere turpis, et sollicitudin elit hendrerit ac.Vestibulum
    sit amet mauris elit, vitae convallis neque. Vivamus at mattis ligula.</p>

20.<p>
21.Vestibulum ante ipsum primis in faucibus orci luctus et ultrices posuere c
    ubilia Curae; Class aptent taciti sociosqu ad litora torquent per conubia
    nostra, per inceptos himenaeos. Nullam non magna nec ipsum pharetra posuer
    e. Proin libero arcu, rutrum non convallis vitae, rutrumpulvinar eros. In
    hac habitasse platea dictumst></p>
22.</body>
23.</html>
```

In this example, only p elements are selected in the HTML page, because name of the selector is p.

Result

Example of CSS selector

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Pellentesque a interdum turpis. Sed viverra odio a leo aliquam porttitor. Duis sed sodales purus. Vestibulum lacus lorem, aliquam ut tincidunt a, pretium id ante.

Duis eget nisi sem, eu dignissim lorem. Suspendisse sit amet lorem leo. Nullam euismod posuere turpis, et sollicitudin elit hendrerit ac.Vestibulum sit amet mauris elit, vitae convallis neque. Vivamus at mattis ligula.

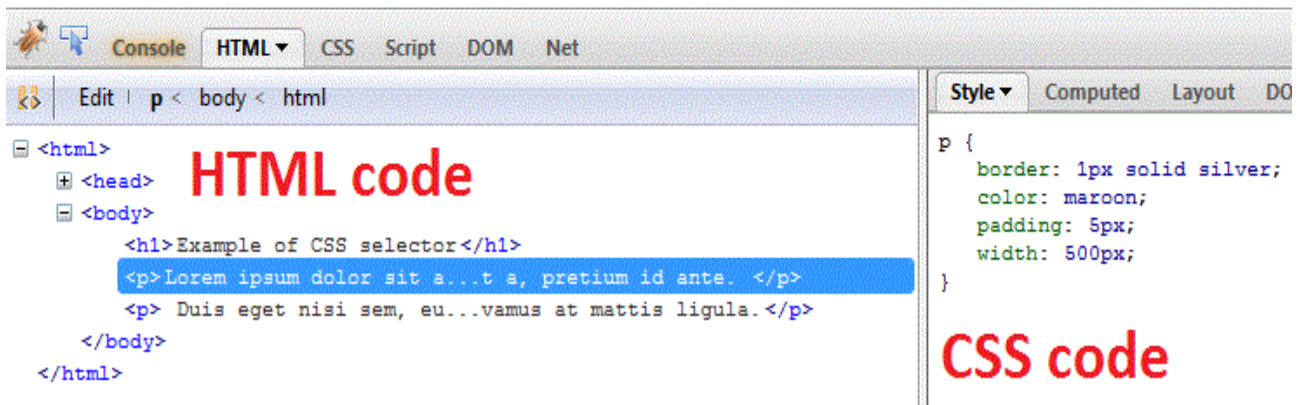
Pictorial presentation of CSS selector

Example of CSS selector

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Pellentesque a interdum turpis. Sed viverra odio a leo aliquam porttitor. Duis sed sodales purus. Vestibulum lacus lorem, aliquam ut tincidunt a, pretium id ante.

Result

Duis eget nisi sem, eu dignissim lorem. Suspendisse sit amet lorem leo. Nullam euismod posuere turpis, et sollicitudin elit hendrerit ac. Vestibulum sit amet mauris elit, vitae convallis neque. Vivamus at mattis ligula.



The screenshot shows a web browser's developer tools interface. The top bar includes 'Console', 'HTML', 'CSS', 'Script', 'DOM', and 'Net'. The 'HTML' tab is active, showing the document structure. The 'Style' tab is also active, showing the CSS rules for the selected element. The HTML code is as follows:

```
<html>
  <head>
  <body>
    <h1>Example of CSS selector</h1>
    <p>Lorem ipsum dolor sit a...t a, pretium id ante. </p>
    <p> Duis eget nisi sem, eu...vamus at mattis ligula.</p>
  </body>
</html>
```

The CSS code for the selected paragraph is:

```
p {
  border: 1px solid silver;
  color: maroon;
  padding: 5px;
  width: 500px;
}
```

The text 'HTML code' and 'CSS code' are overlaid in red on the screenshot.

Source : <http://www.w3resource.com/css/selectors/CSS-selectors.php>