

Some common style sheet properties

The cascading style sheet specification lists 53 properties in six different groupings that let you control how things look on your document page. The remainder of this teaching document will briefly look at most of these properties. For a complete listing and detailed explanations, you should consult the book listed at the end of this page (or any other cascading style sheet book of your choice) or visit one of the many style sheet reference pages on the web, a few of which are also listed in the help section below.

Font Properties				
FONT-FAMILY	FONT-SIZE	FONT-STYLE	FONT-VARIANT	FONT-WEIGHT
Used to select a font or generic font type	Used to specify the size of affected text; usually in point size	Used to slant text to either italic or oblique	Used to select small caps	Used to control the boldness of text
Font-Variant operates incorrectly on most current browsers.				
Font names can be either specific or generic. Font names which include spaces, e.g. Times New Roman, should be enclosed in quotation marks. The five generic styles are serif, sanserif, cursive, fantasy, and monospace. Cursive and fantasy are rarely if ever supported by any browser at present.				
To avoid lengthy lists of font properties for one or more elements, you may combine all the font properties in one list using the generic FONT property				

Properties must be listed in the order shown below. Font size and family are required; the other properties can be omitted if not needed.

ELEMENT {font: font-style font-weight font-variant font-size font-family}

P {font: bold 12pt "Times New Roman", Garamond, serif}

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Text Properties

LETTER-SPACING	LINE-HEIGHT	TEXT-ALIGN	TEXT-DECORATION
Used to insert extra space between letters in terms of pixels; not supported by Netscape	Used to increase the amount of space between lines of text	Used to set the justification of text; values can be either left, right, center, or justify	Used to embellish text; values can be underline, overline, line-through, and blink. Netscape doesn't recognize overline, IE doesn't recognize blink
TEXT-INDENT	TEXT-TRANSFORM	VERTICAL-ALIGN	WORD-SPACING
Used to control the indentation of the first line of a block of text	Used to change the case of all the text within a tag; values are capitalize	Used to control the relative position of an element with respect to the line containing it	This property is specified in the CSS standard but no browser currently supports

can be given in inches, centimeters, pixels, or ems	uppercase, and lowercase	are baseline, middle, sub (subscripts), super (superscripts), text-top, text-bottom, top, and bottom. You may also specify a percentage value	it
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To create a hanging indent, specify a negative value for the text-indent property. At the same time, you may need to compensate for text margins. For example:

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.hang {text-indent: -3em ; margin-left: 3 em}
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List Properties

LIST-STYLE-IMAGE	LIST-STYLE-POSITION	LIST-STYLE-TYPE
Used to specify an image to use instead of the browser default "bullet" or list item marker	Used to specify whether the list item marker should appear inside or outside the block associated with the item. Outside is the common default	Used to specify how ordered and unordered lists display their items. Ordered lists can be decimal, lower-roman, upper-roman, lower-alpha, upper-alpha, or none; unordered lists can be disc, circle, square, or none

The list-style-image option is supported only by Internet Explorer

Currently, no browser supports the list-style-position property

Apply the above styles to the and tags to affect all the items in a list rather than applying the styles to each tag individually

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Every element in an HTML document has both a foreground and a background color. In some cases the background is not a color but an image. Children of an HTML element normally inherit the foreground color their parent, but background properties are *not* inherited. A child's background is normally transparent, allowing the parent's background color or image to show through. This is how text can appear "on top" (or "in front") of a background image.

Color and Background Properties

BACKGROUND-ATTACHMENT

Used to control how a background image is "attached" to the browser's display window. Values are scroll (the default) and fixed. Not supported by Netscape

BACKGROUND-COLOR

Used to control the background color of an element. Default value is transparent

BACKGROUND-IMAGE

Used to insert an image behind the contents of an element. If the image is larger than the element, it will be cropped to fit; if smaller, it will be tiled

BACKGROUND-POSITION

BACKGROUND-REPEAT

COLOR

Used to offset a background image from its default position of the upper left-hand corner of a document; specify the offset in pixels, inches, centimeters, or as a percentage of the screen size.	Used to alter the tiling behavior of a background image. Default value is repeat; you can use repeat-x to tile the image only horizontally, repeat-y to tile only vertically, or no-repeat to suppress tiling	Used to set the foreground color of an element. Its value may be either a standard color name, a hexadecimal code, or an RGB value
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As shown for the FONT attributes, you can combine several background properties into a single generic BACKGROUND property statement. This is the only way to get Netscape to recognize certain background properties! You may specify as many or as few as you wish in any order.

The COLOR property is normally used to specify the color of text. However, it supposedly can also be used to color non-textual tags, e.g. horizontal rules, that cannot normally be changed. However, Netscape appears not to recognize this capability, though Internet Explorer does.

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Box Properties			
BORDER-COLOR	BORDER-WIDTH	BORDER-STYLE	CLEAR
Used to control the color of a border	Used to specify the width or	Used to embellish borders. Options are	Used to tell the browser

<p>Accepts either standard color names, hexadecimal codes, or RGB values. See below for information on controlling border colors individually.</p>	<p>thickness of a border, expressed in pixels, millimeters, inches, etc. or as thin, medium, and thick. In theory, you can control individual borders as described below for BORDER-COLOR</p>	<p>none, dotted, dashed, solid, double, groove, ridge, inset, and outset. Browser support for some of these options is unpredictable and also may require you to set the BORDER-WIDTH as well as the BORDER-STYLE to take effect</p>	<p>whether to place adjacent text beside a "floating" element or below it; analogous to the BR CLEAR= attribute in regular HTML tags</p>
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In theory, BORDER-COLOR accepts from one to four values; if only one is specified, all borders have the same color; if two are specified, the top and bottom have the first color, the left and right the other; if three are specified, the top has the first color, the sides the second, and the bottom the third; if four values are specified, the colors are assigned starting with the top and moving clockwise. Border color options currently are implemented unpredictably in both Netscape and Internet Explorer.

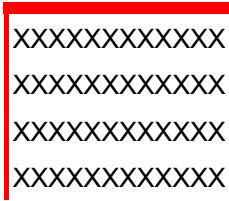
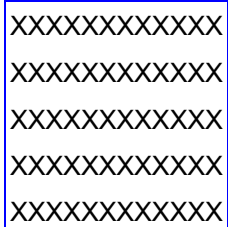
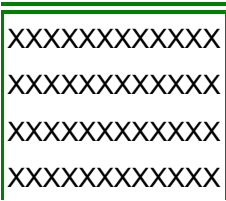
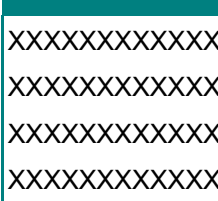
<p>FLOAT</p>	<p>HEIGHT</p>	<p>WIDTH</p>	<p>MARGIN and PADDING</p>
<p>Used to specify that adjacent text should flow around an object in a specified manner</p>	<p>Used to control the apparent height of an element's display region Internet</p>	<p>Used to control the apparent width of an element's display region. Use HEIGHT and WIDTH together</p>	<p>Used to control the margin space or padding space around</p>

Works similar to the ALIGN= attribute of regular HTML tags. Works only for images in Internet Explorer but for both text and images in Netscape	Explorer fully supports this property; Netscape only does so for images	to maintain the proper aspect ratio of an element	an element. You can only control their sizes, as margins and padding have no color or style
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The short-hand MARGIN and PADDING properties used to specify multiple margins or element padding in a single statement is not supported by Netscape.

MARGIN-LEFT	MARGIN-RIGHT	MARGIN-TOP	MARGIN-BOTTOM
Used to specify the thickness of the left margin of an element	Used to specify the thickness of the right margin of an element	Used to specify the thickness of the top margin of an element	Used to specify the thickness of the bottom margin of an element

Some examples of boxes appear below:

Border Color	Border Width Thin	Double Border	Outset Border
			

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