

CSS Practice Exercise

Due: before class on Friday (counts for 50% of lab on Friday)

The goal of this assignment is for you to try out CSS properties and ways to apply them to your HTML. You will start with an existing HTML web page, add an external stylesheet, then style your HTML, modifying the HTML file when needed. You will then submit your work to eLearning.

Step 1: Setup

1.1. Create a new folder. Copy the lab3part1.html file into this folder. Open it in a text editor and in a browser.

1.2. Take a look at the web page as it is displayed in your browser. We don't have any styles specified, yet there is definitely some styling present: there's whitespace between headings and between paragraphs; all headings are displayed in bold, and in different font sizes; there's also some whitespace around the content. These are the default styles supplied by the browser. They are helpful when we need a very simple web page that is readable; but when we want to implement our own styles, these tend to get in the way. So let's turn them off: let's reset all styles.

1.2.1. Add a reset.css file to your folder; you may use this one: <http://meyerweb.com/eric/tools/css/reset/reset.css>

1.2.2. Link your reset.css to your web page. To do that, place the following code anywhere between the `<head>` `</head>` tags:

```
<link rel="stylesheet" href="reset.css">
```

Save your file, then refresh your browser. see what has changed? If you want to compare the two, open the same file in another window, remove the link to reset.css and refresh - and look at the two windows, better side-by-side. The new version is not very readable! But it's much more useful to us: it's like a blank canvas that doesn't have any previous work on it that we would have to fix or erase.

1.3. In your folder, create a new text document, call it style.css . That's where you will define **your** styles.

1.4. Link your style.css to your web page. To do that, place the following code between the `<head>` `</head>` tags **AFTER** your link to reset.css:

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

You are ready to start styling!

Step 2: Styling

2.1. We will discuss margins in more detail next class; for now, let's use them to add some much needed whitespace around our HTML elements. Add the following code to your style.css file:

```
body {
    margin: 1em;
}
h1, h2, h3, h4, h5, h6, p {
    margin-top: 1em;
    margin-bottom: 1em;
}
```

Save your file, then refresh your browser. Now your web page is readable!

2.2. Finally, let's experiment with styling. I want you to try out the following:

- try several CSS properties (and values) that you may have not tried before
- apply them to different parts of your HTML, using the following three selection techniques:
 - select by element
 - select by class
 - select by id

I am providing you with a list of CSS properties to try out at the end of this assignment. Each one is a link to a detailed description of how it works; you don't need to read that description, but glancing at the key information + examples at the end of the page will be helpful.

How to select your HTML?

1. You can select by element. For example, this code - `p { color: red; }` - will change the text contents of all p (paragraph) elements by setting their color to red.
2. You can select by class. To do this, you will need to modify your HTML, adding class attributes to the tags you want to select. For example. here are tags with a class attribute:

```
<h3 class="foo">Some Heading</h3>
<p class="foo">some text....
```

The following code - `.foo { color: green; }` - will select all elements which have a class attribute with a value "foo" and change the color of their text contents to green (***note the dot before the class name***).

3. You may also want to select one element only (even if there are other elements of its type on the page). To do that, add an id attribute to the tag and give it a **unique** name (unique to this HTML file). For example:

```
<h2 id="coolstuff">Cool Heading</h2>
```

This element can be styled like this: `#coolstuff { color: blue; }`

4. Finally, to do really interesting stuff, you may have to group your HTML by adding these tags:

use this: `...text your grouped text text...` - to group parts of text without making them appear on a new line.(span is an inline element)

use `<div>[any part of your HTML]</div>` to group anything else. Your group will be displayed on a new line (div is a block-level element)

Here are the properties I suggest you try:

- <https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/CSS/font-weight>
- <https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/CSS/font-size>
- <https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/CSS/font-variant>
suggested value to try: small-caps
- <https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/CSS/font-style>
suggested value to try: italic
- <https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/CSS/text-align>
- <https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/CSS/text-indent>
- <https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/CSS/text-shadow>
- <https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/CSS/text-transform>

Final step: Submit your work

Submit your **lab3part1.html** and your **style.css** files to eLearning (course content > labs > lab 3 part 1).