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# CSS: Classes & Ids



- ⦿ Last way to specify where styles apply

- ⦿ classes & ids

- ⦿ Classes

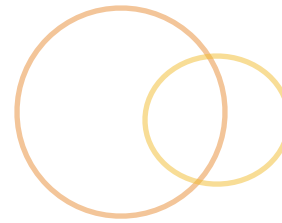
- ⦿ used when you have multiple items on a page that need modification
      - ⦿ look at example demos/classid/romeo.html (test case)
      - ⦿ look at example demos/classid/romeo-class.html
        - ⦿ a designed work around for “:first-letter”
        - ⦿ however “:first-letter” works in latest gen browsers even IE6 – just issues with IE5
      - ⦿ rules that start with a dot (.)
        - ⦿ .cap {font-size:1.6em}
      - ⦿ the “dot” means we are creating a whole new selector
      - ⦿ can use the <span> element to add a class
        - ⦿ <span class=“cap”>T</span>

# CSS: Classes & Ids



- ⦿ Last way to specify where styles apply
  - ⦿ Classes
    - ⦿ Specificity
      - ⦿ can give classes a specific element to work with
      - ⦿ `span.cap {font-size:1.6em}`
        - affects `<span>` elements with the class `cap`
      - ⦿ best to name classes by their function rather than appearance
        - ⦿ “error” is good (PayPal)
        - ⦿ “sectionHeader” is okay – too specific (camelCase)
        - ⦿ “bigRedText” is not a good naming convention – doesn’t describe content
    - ⦿ look at example `demos/classid/romeo-class-descendant.html`
      - ⦿ “`h1 span.cap {font-size:90px;}`” - descendant selector
      - ⦿ `<h1 id="title"><span class="cap">R</span>omeo`

# CSS: Classes & Ids



## Multiple Classes

- one element can have multiple classes

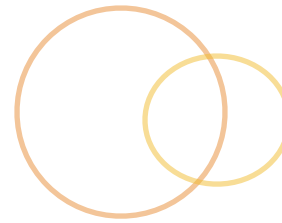
- `<h1 class="classfoo classbar">Text</h1>`

- one element **can't** have more than one of the same attribute

- `<h1 class="classfoo" class="classbar">Text</h1>`

- ILLEGAL**

# CSS: Classes & Ids



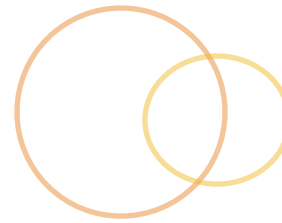
## ⦿ ids

- ⦿ used for elements that only occur once in a page
  - ⦿ class = multiple, id = single
  - ⦿ . = class, # = id
  - ⦿ elements like “title”, “maintext” and “author” expect to only use once – major structural elements (header, content, footer ... from PayPal)

```
#title {font-size:3em; text-align:center;}
```

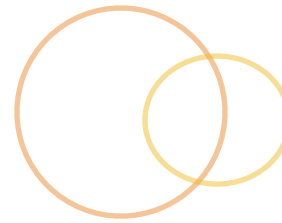
- ⦿ look at [demos/classid/romeo-class-id.html](#)
  - ⦿ things to notice
    - ⦿ id selectors used for “title”, “maintext” and “author”
    - ⦿ we can use descendant notation with classes and divs
    - ⦿ use this instead :first-letter

# CSS: Classes & Ids



- ⦿ When to use classes & ids
  - ⦿ use descendant selectors if you can
  - ⦿ use “id” if the element will only appear once on page
    - ⦿ useful also for dynamic scripting
    - ⦿ useful for internal linking
    - ⦿ use with type selectors ( `#footer ul {margin:.7em 0;}` )
  - ⦿ use “class” if the element appears more than once per page
    - ⦿ don't get class happy try descendants first
  - ⦿ think about descendant before class selectors
    - ⦿ [tantek.com/log/2002/12.html#atoc\\_cbeforec](http://tantek.com/log/2002/12.html#atoc_cbeforec)

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## ⦿ Universal Selector

⦿ \* { font-size: 1.1em; }

⦿ matches any element like a wildcard in programming languages

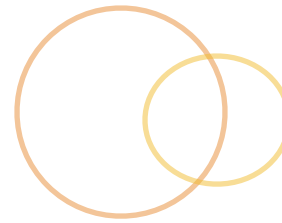
⦿ every element in the document would be 1.1em in size

⦿ can be used to style grandchildren of an element

li \*

⦿ this will only style li nested within another li

# CSS: Classes & Ids



## ◎ Selector Specificity

- ◎ complicated to calculate selector specificity

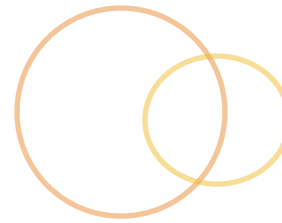
- ◎ inline styles are more specific than “id selectors”, which are more specific than “class selectors”, which are more specific than “type selectors (descendent selectors)”

- ◎ “h1 em” is more specific and will outweigh the “em” selector by itself - it will override

```
em { color: gray; }  
h1 em {color: gray; }
```



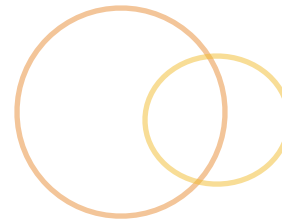
# CSS: Classes & Ids



## ◎ Selector Specificity

- ◎ four levels of specificity a,b,c,d
  - ◎ a is for inline rules
  - ◎ b is the number of ID selectors
  - ◎ c is the number of class, pseudo-class and attribute selectors
  - ◎ d is the number of type selectors (descendant/element selectors) & pseudo element selectors (i.e. :first-line or :first-letter)

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## Selector Specificity

### four levels of specificity a,b,c,d

specificity isn't really calculated in base 10, but we can say they are 😊

style = " " 1,0,0,0 1000

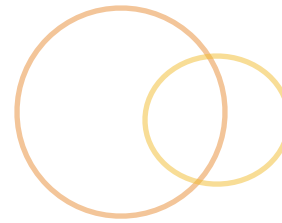
#leftcol #information {...}  
0,2,0,0 200

#information .update {...}  
0,1,1,0 110

h1 #information {...}  
0,1,0,1 101

p {...}  
0,0,0,1 1

# CSS: Classes & Ids



## ◎ Selector Specificity

### ◎ want to know more about weight?

◎ [www.w3.org/TR/2003/WD-CSS21-20030915/cascade.html#specificity](http://www.w3.org/TR/2003/WD-CSS21-20030915/cascade.html#specificity)

### ◎ CSS: Specifity Wars

◎ [www.stuffandnonsense.co.uk/archives/css\\_specificity\\_wars.html](http://www.stuffandnonsense.co.uk/archives/css_specificity_wars.html)

### ◎ with large CSS pages specificity can be problematic

◎ keep general styles general

◎ keep specific styles specific (i.e. not overridden)