

M2R5 Web Designing & Publishing

Introduction to Web Design

Topic Reference | Introduction to CSS: Styling Web Content | September 11, 2026

Topic Summary

Topic: Introduction to CSS: Styling Web Content

Book: (M2-R5) Web Designing & Publishing

1 Introduction to CSS: Styling Web Content

Learn the basics of CSS, the language used to style the visual presentation of web pages, controlling colors, fonts, and layouts.

Key Points:

CSS stands for **Cascading Style Sheets**. It is a style sheet language used for describing the presentation of a document written in HTML (or XML). CSS separates the content (HTML) from its visual presentation, making web design more flexible and efficient.

What is CSS?

- It's a **style sheet language**, not a programming language.
- It controls the **look and feel** of a web page, including colors, fonts, spacing, layout, and responsiveness.
- It allows designers to apply consistent styling across multiple web pages from a single file.

Why Use CSS?

- **Separation of Concerns:** Keeps HTML focused on content and structure, while CSS handles presentation. This makes code cleaner and easier to manage.
- **Efficiency:** Styles can be defined once and applied to many HTML elements or even multiple pages, saving time and effort.
- **Consistency:** Ensures a uniform look and feel across an entire website.
- **Responsiveness:** Essential for creating layouts that adapt to different screen sizes and devices.

Basic CSS Syntax:

A CSS rule consists of a **selector** and a **declaration block**.

```
selector { property: value; property: value; }
```

- **Selector:** Points to the HTML element(s) you want to style (e.g., p for paragraphs, h1 for headings).
- **Declaration Block:** Contains one or more declarations separated by semicolons.

- **Declaration:** Includes a CSS *property* and a *value*, separated by a colon (e.g., color: blue;).

Example:

```
p { color: blue; font-size: 16px; } h1 { color: #FF0000; text-align: center; }
```

How to Include CSS:

1. **Inline CSS:** Using the style attribute directly in an HTML tag. (Not recommended for large projects).
2. **Internal CSS:** Placing `<style>` tags within the `<head>` section of an HTML document.
3. **External CSS:** Linking to a separate .css file from the HTML document using the `<link>` tag in the `<head>` section. (Most recommended method).

CSS is indispensable for creating modern, visually appealing, and responsive web designs.

Exam Tip:

Define CSS, explain its purpose, and briefly describe its basic syntax (selector, property, value). Know the different ways to include CSS in an HTML document.