

CSS Classes

A **class** in CSS is a way for more than one HTML element to share the same style. With a class, a paragraph `<p>` can share the same properties with a heading `<h1>` without creating the exact same CSS twice, once for the *p* and once for the *h1*.

Classes are also used to select elements for a style without changing all elements. For example, you might want some paragraphs on the page to be in red, and other paragraphs to be blue. If you simply created the CSS for the `p` tag, all paragraphs would be affected. Using classes, you can apply a style to specific elements that you select without changing all of them.

Using CSS classes is a 2-step process:

1. Create the **class** in CSS. The **period** is used to denote the name of the class.
2. Use the class in the HTML. The **class** attribute is used. The value of the **class** attribute is the name of the class you created in step 1.

For example, the following CSS creates 3 classes named **redtext**, **bluetext** and **boldtext**:

```
.redtext {
    color: #FF0000;
}

.bluetext {
    color: #0000FF;
}

.boldtext {
    font-weight: bold;
}
```

These classes are then used in the following HTML to display one paragraph in red and another paragraph in blue. The class can also be used to change the h1 to red.

```
<h1 class="redtext">My Name</h1>
<p class="redtext">This is a paragraph with red text</p>
<p class="bluetext">This is a paragraph with blue text</p>
```

You can put several class names as the value for the class attribute where each class name is separated by a space.

```
<p class="redtext">This is a paragraph with red text</p>
<p class="bluetext">This is a paragraph blue text</p>
<p class="bluetext boldtext">This is a paragraph with blue & bold text</p>
```