

# Using Style Sheets Tutorial

## Getting started

Use a Web browser like Netscape to open the file "coffee.html." Note the appearance of the page. This unstyled document contains most of the major elements of HTML. Don't quit the browser; we'll return to it later.

Use a text editor like Notepad or SimpleText to open the file "coffee.html." Note the markup that gives the document its structure. Refer to the "Anatomy of a Web Page" handout.

## Adding the LINK element

Add this tag to the document **HEAD**:

```
<LINK REL="stylesheet" TYPE="text/css" HREF="mystyle.css">
```

Save the file.

## Creating a style sheet

Choose File > New to start a new text document.

Type **BODY**. Congratulations -- you've just specified your first selector.

Add a pair of curly braces so that it looks something like this:

```
BODY {  
}
```

Now you need to put some style declarations between the braces. Remember that since these declarations apply to the **BODY**, they will be inherited by elements within the **BODY**.

A good start might be to declare a color and background-color. Separate the property from the value with a colon, and end each line with a semicolon, like this:

```
BODY {  
  color: black;  
  background-color: white;  
}
```

This would create a page with black text and a white background, but you can experiment with other colors if you like. If you specify a color for text, it's good practice to also specify a color for the background. Netscape and Internet Explorer both support a very long list of colors that you can refer to by name, such as aqua, beige, blueviolet, chartreuse, and so on. For precise control, try using RGB values to mix your own custom colors.

To set a font-family for the page as a whole, add a declaration like this:

```
font-family: Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif;
```

Add other declarations at your discretion. Refer to the short alphabetical list of properties as well as the more detailed list.

When you've finished with all the declarations for the **BODY**, sit back and breathe a sigh of relief. Congratulations! You've just completed your first style rule.

Save the file. Name it "mystyle.css." Windows Notepad users: take care to choose Save as type > All files (\*.\*) in the Save As dialog.

Congratulations once again -- you've just created your first style sheet.

## ***Checking your work***

To see the effects of your handiwork, return to your Web browser and reload the page. You may wish to make changes to your style sheet based on what you see. Or you may simply wish to bask in the glory of your own creativity.

## ***Expanding your style sheet***

Return to your text editor and add another selector. You may wish to apply a style rule to all headings, with a selector like this:

```
H1, H2, H3, H4, H5, H6 {  
}
```

After you've added declarations that will apply to all headings, you may further customize individual heading levels with their own style rules, like this:

```
H3 {  
background-color: aquamarine;  
text-style: oblique;  
}
```

Once you've finished with headings, save the file and reload the page in your browser. Fine-tune your style rules if need be.

Continue to declare style rules for elements such as **P**, **BLOCKQUOTE**, **UL**, **OL**, **PRE**, and **ADDRESS**. You can also declare rules for **HR** and **TABLE** elements, but be aware that these elements may react a bit differently. Experimentation is key.

## ***Uploading your work***

When you are satisfied with your style sheet (make sure that you have saved it), use an FTP client such as WS\_FTP or Fetch to connect to your account on the Xavier server. Upload the coffee.html and mystyle.css files to your public\_html directory. Don't forget to set the permissions correctly!

Now test that the files have safely made the transition to the Web. Point your browser to <http://xavier.xula.edu/~yourusername/coffee.html>

If the page appears correctly, with styles intact, you have been successful.

## ***Linking other pages to your style sheet***

You may now link other pages to your style sheet. Use your FTP client to download them to your floppy, open them with a text editor, and add the same **LINK** tag that you typed at the beginning of this tutorial. Save and open the page in your browser to see what it looks like. If you are satisfied, you may upload the newly edited page to overwrite the old version.

Note: This procedure requires a minor modification if your Web pages are located in directories nested with your public\_html directory. You will need to adjust the **HREF** attribute of the **LINK** element accordingly. You may wish to use a relative URI, such as "../mystyle.css", or an absolute URI, such as "http://xavier.xula.edu/~yourusername/mystyle.css".