

CSS Quick Reference Guide

The following table is based upon the [CSS 2.1 Properties Table](#) found in the CSS specifications on the [W3C](#) web site. Not all of the properties available in the CSS 2.1 specification are listed here. Only properties implemented by the major browsers are shown in this table. For a more complete listing of properties and links to more complete descriptions of the properties visit <http://www.w3.org/TR/CSS21/propidx.html>.

Property	Description	Values	Default Value	Inherited?	Applies To	Percentages	Media	Special Notes
background (shorthand)	Sets image or color and how it is used as the underlying backdrop for the page's content	[background-color background-image background-repeat background-attachment background-position] inherit	see individual properties	no	all elements	allowed on 'background-position'	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	
background-attachment	Determines whether background moves when window scrolls	scroll fixed inherit	scroll	no	all elements	n/a	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	
background-color	Sets background color	<color> transparent inherit	transparent	no	all elements	n/a	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	<color> can be specified using color predefined name, 6 digit hex value, or using rgb(r, g, b) function
background-image	Loads background image from designated URI	<uri> none inherit	none	no	all elements	n/a	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	<uri> is specified using the url(path/filename) function. 'background-image' takes precedence over 'background-color'
background-position	Sets the position of the background image	[[<percentage> <length> left center right] [<percentage> <length> top center bottom]?] [[left center right] [top center bottom]] inherit	0% 0%	no	all elements	refer to the size of the box itself	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	<length> measured in em, ex, px, in, cm, mm, pt, and pc (pica)
background-repeat	Determines if background image repeats horizontally (x), vertically (y), or both	repeat repeat-x repeat-y no-repeat inherit	repeat	no	all elements	n/a	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	Using the value 'repeat' means image tiles vertically and horizontally
border (shorthand)	Sets border width (thickness), style, and color	[border-width border-style border-color] inherit	see individual properties	no	all elements	n/a	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	

Property	Description	Values	Default Value	Inherited?	Applies To	Percentages	Media	Special Notes
border-collapse	Sets whether borders of adjacent table elements (cells, row groups, column groups) are rendered separately or collapsed (merged) to ignore any padding or margins between adjacent borders	collapse separate inherit	separate	yes	'table' and 'inline table' elements	n/a	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	
border-color	Sets the color of the border	[<color> transparent] {1, 4} inherit	see individual properties	no	all elements	n/a	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	Border must be established before color is set
border-spacing	Specifies the distance that separates adjacent cells in a table	<length> <length>? inherit	0	yes	'table' and 'inline table' elements	n/a	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	Border must be established before spacing is set.
border-style	Changes the look of the border line	<border-style>{1, 4} inherit	see individual properties	no	all elements	n/a	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	<border-style> can be none hidden dotted dashed solid double groove ridge inset outset
border-top border-right border-bottom border-left (shorthand)	Shorthand border for individual sides	[<border-width> <border-style> <border-color>] inherit	see individual properties	no	all elements	n/a	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	
border-top-color border-right-color border-bottom-color border-left-color	Sets the color of the specified border side	<color> transparent inherit	the value of the 'color' property	no	all elements	n/a	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	
border-top-style border-right-style border-bottom-style border-left-style	Sets the style of the specified border side	<border-style> inherit	none	no	all elements	n/a	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	See Special Note for the 'border-style' property for possible values of <border-style>
border-top-width border-right-width border-bottom-width border-left-width	Sets the border width for the specified border side	<border-width> inherit	medium	no	all elements	n/a	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	
border-width	Sets the border thickness of one to all 4 border sides	<border-width>{1, 4} inherit	see individual properties	no	all elements	n/a	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	

Property	Description	Values	Default Value	Inherited?	Applies To	Percentages	Media	Special Notes
bottom	Positions element the designated distance from the CSS box's bottom edge	<length> <percentage> auto inherit	auto	no	positioned elements	refer to height of containing block	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	
caption-side	Specifies a table caption position with respect to the table	top bottom inherit	top	yes	'table caption' elements	n/a	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	
clear	Specifies whether an element allows floating elements at its side; more specifically, it lists the sides on which floating elements are not excepted	none left right both inherit	none	no	block level elements	n/a	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	
clip	Defines the portion of an element's rendered content that is visible	<shape> auto inherit	auto	no	absolutely positioned elements	n/a	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	Only valid <shape> is 'rect' where offsets are identified in this order: top, right, bottom, and left
color	Sets the foreground color of an element	<color> inherit Includes 17 color names: aqua, black, blue, fuchsia, gray, green, lime, maroon, navy, olive, orange, purple, red, silver, teal, white, and yellow	depends on user agent	yes	all elements	n/a	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	<color> can be specified using color predefined name, 6 digit hex value, or using rgb(r, g, b) function. CSS3 if adopted will include the 142 predefined color names of the X11 color set.
content	Used with the :before and :after pseudo-elements to generate content in a document	normal [<string> <uri> <counter> attr(<identifier>) open-quote close-quote no-open-quote no-close-quote]+ inherit	normal	no	:before and :after pseudo-elements	n/a	aural, braille, emboss, handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	
counter-increment	Increments or decrements an identified counter	[<identifier> <integer>?]+ none inherit	none	no	all elements	n/a	aural, braille, emboss, handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	Zero and negative integers are allowed. The default increment is 1.

Property	Description	Values	Default Value	Inherited?	Applies To	Percentages	Media	Special Notes
counter-reset	Resets identified counter	[<identifier> <integer>?]+ none inherit	none	no	all elements	n/a	aural, braille, emboss, handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	Zero and negative integers are allowed. The default reset value is 0.
cursor	Specifies the type of mouse cursor to be displayed within an element	[[<uri>,]* [auto crosshair default pointer move e-resize ne-resize nw-resize n-resize se-resize sw-resize s-resize w-resize text wait help progress]] inherit	auto	yes	all elements	n/a	handheld, screen, tty, tv	The resize cursors indicate that some element edge is to be moved.
direction	Specifies the base writing direction of blocks of text	ltr rtl inherit	ltr	yes	all elements	n/a	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	Overrides Unicode bidirectional algorithm
display	Changes the display properties for the designated element	inline block list-item run-in inline-block table inline-table table-row-group table-header-group table-footer-group table-row table-column-group table-column table-cell table-caption none inherit	inline	no	all elements	n/a	aural, braille, emboss, handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	Default style sheets can override this property setting
empty-cells	Controls the rendering of borders around table cells that have no content	show hide inherit	show	yes	'table cell' elements	n/a	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	
float	Allows placement of an element to the left or right edge of a parent element	left right none inherit	none	no	all elements	n/a	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	The display property of the element is ignored when "floating" an element
font (shorthand)	Sets font-style, font-variant, font-weight, font-size, and font-family properties	[["font-style" 'font-variant' 'font-weight' 'font-size' [/'line-height'? 'font-family'] caption icon menu message-box small-caption status-bar inherit	see individual properties	yes	all elements	See individual properties	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	All font-related properties are first reset to their initial values, then explicitly set based on the values assigned to this property.
font-family	Sets the typeface	[[<family-name> <generic-family>], <family-name> <generic-family>*] inherit	depends on user agent	yes	all elements	n/a	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	Specific family names like, Arial or Times New Roman, are acceptable. Names with embedded spaces must be enclosed in quotes.

Property	Description	Values	Default Value	Inherited?	Applies To	Percentages	Media	Special Notes
font-size	Controls the size of the font	<absolute-size> <relative-size> <length> <percentage> inherit	medium	yes	all elements	refer to parent element's font size	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	Absolute sizes are: xx-small, x-small, small, medium, large, x-large, xx-large. Relative sizes are: smaller, larger
font-style	Determines whether a font is displayed using an italic or oblique setting	normal italic oblique inherit	normal	yes	all elements	n/a	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	
font-variant	Determines whether font is displayed in small uppercase characters	normal small-caps inherit	normal	yes	all elements	n/a	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	
font-weight	Determines the thickness or darkness of the font	normal bold bolder lighter 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 inherit	normal	yes	all elements	n/a	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	Normal text is 400 and bold text is 700
height	Sets the height of elements	<length> <percentage> auto inherit	auto	no	all elements but non-replaced inline elements, table columns, and column groups	refers to height of containing block, but only if the height of the containing block is set, otherwise it is ignored	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	
left	Specifies how far an element's left edge is offset from the left edge of the containing block	<length> <percentage> auto inherit	auto	no	positioned elements	refer to width of containing block	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	
letter-spacing	Increases or decreases spacing between letters	normal <length> inherit	normal	yes	all elements	n/a	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	
line-height	Specifies how far apart the lines in a paragraph are	normal <number> <length> <percentage> inherit	normal	yes	all elements	refer to the font size of the element itself	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	<number> is the value to be multiplied by the text height.
list-style (shorthand)	Specifies the marker style, position, and image for items in a list	['list-style-type' 'list-style-position' 'list-style-image'] inherit	see individual properties	yes	elements with 'display-list-item'	n/a	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	

Property	Description	Values	Default Value	Inherited?	Applies To	Percentages	Media	Special Notes
list-style-image	Sets the image used as the list item marker	<uri> none inherit	none	yes	elements with 'display-list-item'	n/a	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	If there is a list-style-image other than none, it will be used as the label, instead of the list-style-type.
list-style-position	Specifies the position of the marker in the list	inside outside inherit	outside	yes	elements with 'display-list-item'	n/a	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	
list-style-type	Specifies the appearance of the list item marker	disc circle square decimal decimal-leading-zero lower-roman upper-roman lower-greek lower-alpha lower-latin upper-alpha upper-latin armenian georgian none inherit	disc	yes	elements with 'display-list-item'	n/a	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	
margin (shorthand)	Defines all four margins that surround the CSS element box	<margin-width>{1, 4} inherit	see individual properties	no	all elements except elements with table display types other than table or inline-table	refer to width of containing block	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	When one value is used all margins are the same width. With two values the top/bottom margins are the same, and the left/right margins are the same. With three values the first value=top, the second value=right & left, the third value=bottom. Four values are assigned to top, right, bottom, and left.
margin-top margin-right margin-bottom margin-left	Defines the margin for the specified side of the CSS element box	<margin-width> inherit	0	no	all elements except elements with table display types other than table or inline-table	refer to width of containing block	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	
max-height	Sets the maximum height for an element	<length> <percentage> none inherit	none	no	all elements except non-replaced inline elements and table elements	refers to height of containing block, but only if the height of the containing block is set, otherwise it is ignored	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	
max-width	Sets the maximum width for an element	<length> <percentage> none inherit	none	no	all elements except non-replaced inline elements and table elements	refer to width of containing block	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	
min-height	Sets the minimum height for an element	<length> <percentage> inherit	0	no	all elements except non-replaced inline elements and table elements	refers to height of containing block, but only if the height of the containing block is set, otherwise it is ignored	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	

Property	Description	Values	Default Value	Inherited?	Applies To	Percentages	Media	Special Notes
min-width	Sets the minimum width for an element	<length> <percentage> inherit	0	no	all elements except non-replaced inline elements and table elements	refer to width of containing block	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	
orphans	Minimum number of lines of a paragraph that must be left at the bottom of a page	<integer> inherit	2	yes	block level elements	n/a	emboss, handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	
outline (shorthand)	Sets outline color, style, and width	['outline-color' 'outline-style' 'outline-width'] inherit	see individual properties	no	all elements	n/a	aural, braille, emboss, handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	
outline-color	Sets the color of the outline that surrounds and element	<color> invert inherit	invert	no	all elements	n/a	aural, braille, emboss, handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	
outline-style	Sets the border style of the outline	<border-style> inherit	none	no	all elements	n/a	aural, braille, emboss, handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	Similar to border-style
outline-width	Sets the width of the outline border	<border-width> inherit	medium	no	all elements	n/a	aural, braille, emboss, handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	Similar to border-width
overflow	Works with the 'clip' property to determine how overflow is clipped	visible hidden scroll auto inherit	visible	no	block level and replaced elements, table cells, inline blocks	n/a	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	

Property	Description	Values	Default Value	Inherited?	Applies To	Percentages	Media	Special Notes
padding (shorthand)	Defines the white space that separates the contents of an element from the border of the element's CSS box	<padding-width>{1, 4} inherit	see individual properties	no	all elements except elements with table display types other than table, inline-table, and table-cell	refer to width of containing block	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	
padding-top padding-right padding-bottom padding-left	Defines the padding for the specified side of the element's CSS box	<padding-width> inherit	0	no	all elements except elements with table display types other than table, inline-table, and table-cell	refer to width of containing block	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	
page-break-after	New page is started after element is displayed or printed	auto always avoid left right inherit	auto	no	block level elements	n/a	emboss, handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	
page-break-before	New page is started before element is displayed or printed	auto always avoid left right inherit	auto	no	block level elements	n/a	emboss, handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	
page-break-inside	Establishes whether a page break can occur within the element	avoid auto inherit	auto	yes	block level elements	n/a	emboss, handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	Typically used when a designer does not want a table or list broken between pages
position	Identifies the positioning scheme used for positioning an element	static relative absolute fixed inherit	static	no	block level elements	n/a	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	The value is used in conjunction with the left, right, top, and bottom properties
quotes	Specifies which ISO character is used for enclosed quotes	[<string> <string>]+ none inherit	depends on user agent	yes	all elements	n/a	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	The first <string> represents the outermost level of quotation, the second <string> represents embedded levels of quotations. Traditional English uses " for the outermost level and ' for embedded levels.
right	Specifies how far an element's right edge is offset from the right edge of the containing block	<length> <percentage> auto inherit	auto	no	positioned elements	refer to width of containing block	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	

Property	Description	Values	Default Value	Inherited?	Applies To	Percentages	Media	Special Notes
table-layout	Controls whether the user agent is able to use a 'fast mode' for table layout	auto fixed inherit	auto	no	'table" and 'inline-table' elements	n/a	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	
text-align	Controls the horizontal alignment of text	left right center justify inherit	'left' if 'direction' is 'ltr'; 'right' if 'direction' is 'rtl'	yes	block level elements, table cells, and inline blocks	n/a	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	
text-decoration	Used to add underling, overlining, strike-out, or a blinking effect to text	none [underline overline line-through blink] inherit	none	no	all elements	n/a	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	
text-indent	Moves start of first line to the left or right of text area's default edge	<length> <percentage> inherit	0	yes	block level elements, table cells, and inline blocks	refer to width of containing block	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	
text-transform	Standardizes the case of the text	capitalize uppercase lowercase none inherit	none	yes	all elements	n/a	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	
top	Specifies how far an element's top edge is offset from the top edge of the containing block	<length> <percentage> auto inherit	auto	no	positioned elements	refer to height of containing element	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	
unicode-bidi	Used to set the direction of text in web pages that use languages meant to be read in different directions	normal embed bidi-override inherit	normal	no	all elements	n/a	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	This property is used in conjunction with the 'direction' property
vertical-align	Specifies the vertical alignment of text	baseline sub super top text-top middle bottom text-bottom <percentage> <length> inherit	baseline	no	inline level and 'table-cell' elements	refer to the 'line-height' of the element itself	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	
visibility	Determines if an element is removed from display	visible hidden collapse inherit	visible	yes	all elements	n/a	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	'visibility' doesn't remove elements from the page, but makes them completely transparent. You see an empty space where the element is supposed to be. The 'collapse' value can make table columns disappear and only applies to tables.

Property	Description	Values	Default Value	Inherited?	Applies To	Percentages	Media	Special Notes
white-space	Determines whether extra white space characters are ignored by the user agent	normal pre nowrap pre-wrap pre-line inherit	normal	yes	all elements	n/a	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	
widows	Minimum number of lines of a paragraph that must be left at the top of a printed page	<integer> inherit	2	yes	block level elements	n/a	emboss, handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	
width	Sets the width of an element	<length> <percentage> auto inherit	auto	no	all elements but non-replaced inline elements, table rows, and row groups	refer to width of containing block	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	
word-spacing	Increases or decreases spacing between words	normal <length> inherit	normal	yes	all elements	n/a	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	
z-index	designates the stacking order when elements overlap	auto <integer> inherit	auto	no	positioned elements	n/a	handheld, print, projection, screen, tty, tv	Elements with a higher <integer> value will appear on top of elements with a lower <integer> value

How to Interpret Property Values

If a property offers many possible values or many possible complex combinations of values, you may find square brackets, vertical bars, and other symbols in the value field of the above table. The syntax is defined in a shorthand notation using certain symbols:

- Angle brackets: < and >
- Vertical bars: | and ||
- Curly braces: { }
- Regular brackets: []
- Question mark: ?
- Asterisk: *
- Plus: +

Angle Brackets < >

The words between the angle brackets < and > specify a type of value. Common examples are <length>, <percentage>, <color>, and <uri>. Refer to the [Full Properties Table](#) in the CSS specification and follow the links for the appropriate value type.

Vertical Bars | and ||

A single vertical bar | separates alternative values. For example, the *font-style* property can have values of *normal* | *italic* | *oblique* | *inherit* which is to say that *font-style* can have a value of *normal* or a value of *italic* or a value of *oblique* or a value of *inherit*. One and only one value can be used.

Curly Braces { }

Curly braces indicate that the preceding value may occur at least A and at most B times. For example using the *margin* property above, the value `<margin-width>{1, 4}` means that the `<margin-width>` value can be specified at least 1 time and at most 4 times.

Regular Brackets []

Regular brackets group parts of the value together. A question mark ?, asterisk *, plus +, or other special symbol that follows the group applies to the whole group.

Question Marks ?, Asterisks *, and Plus +

A plus (+) indicates the value must occur one or more times.

An asterisk (*) indicates the value may occur zero or more times.

A question mark (?) indicates the value is optional.