

Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) for Websites Exercise

This exercise assumes you have become familiar with writing HTML and using the common HTML tags. It is recommended that you complete the *Formatting With Style* exercises in your HTML notes to gain a more complete understanding of CSS as this exercise is only a brief demonstration of how styles work. These exercises will assume you are using the Macromedia HomeSite HTML editor but other editors will work fine.

1. Begin by making sure you have a copy of the CSS exercises in a folder on your computer¹. This folder contains a website which contains basic HTML pages using a table layout. There is no formatting as the formatting will be done entirely using CSS.
2. Open the index.html in your editor and view the existing HTML.
3. Preview the page to see how it looks in a browser.
4. Do the same for the other 4 HTML files.



5. Create a new file in the editor and delete the HTML that is placed in to the new file. It needs to be completely blank.
6. Enter the following line in the style rule blank document

P{font-size: 11pt; font-family: Arial, sans-serif; TEXT-ALIGN:justify}

7. Save the file as kalgoorlie.css

The line you have entered specifies that the contents of any paragraph tag will be justify aligned with 11 point font size. The font used will be Arial and if the Arial font is not available, a generic sans-serif font will be used instead. Since the first two parts of the style rule both relate to font attributes they can be combined.

8. Change the style rule so that it appears as below.

P{FONT:11pt Arial,sans-serif;TEXT-ALIGN:justify}

The rule still means the same thing but is written in a simpler way.

¹ Available from http://www.oneil.com.au/pc/html/CSS_Files.exe

9. Save the file again.

Now we need to place a line in the HTML files that will refer to this style rule.

10. Open the index.html file and add the following line in the HEAD section of the document.

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

The example below shows where the line should be placed. This line tells the web browser to refer to the stylesheet names kalgoorlie.css to see how the document should be formatted.



```

Edit  Browse
X
<!DOCTYPE html public "-//W3C//DTD HTML 4.01 Transitional//EN">
<HTML>
<HEAD>
<TITLE>All About Kalgoorlie Western Australia</TITLE>
<LINK HREF="kalgoorlie.css" REL="stylesheet" TYPE="text/css">
</HEAD>
<BODY BACKGROUND="back.gif" BGCOLOR="white" TEXT="black" LINK="b
ALINK="red">
```

11. Copy that same line to the same location in the other four HTML files.

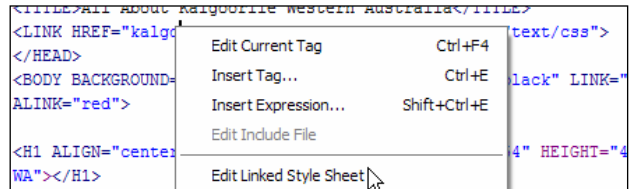
Now each file will be referring to the same stylesheet for formatting information. This means that we can add or edit style rules in that one location and it will affect all of the documents that refer to it using the LINK tag – a great way to set up formatting options for a whole website in one go.

12. Preview any of the files and you will see that any text in a paragraph tag will be using the formatting specified in our stylesheet.

Using a Style Editor

Homesite (and Macromedia Studio) include a basic version of a CSS editor called Topstyle. You can use this handy editor to modify stylesheets the same way you can use Homesite to modify HTML Documents. If you don't have Topstyle available you can still make the following changes to your CSS file without it.

1. Right-click on the LINK tag in one of your HTML documents and choose the Edit Linked Stylesheet option as shown to the right. This will open the linked stylesheet (kalgoorlie.css) in Topstyle.



If this isn't working for some reason, you can open the program from the start menu and then open the file from within Topstyle.

2. Add the following lines below your paragraph style rule.

```
A{COLOR:Blue;FONT:11pt Arial,sans-serif;TEXT-DECORATION:none}
A:HOVER{COLOR:Red;TEXT-DECORATION:underline}
H2{COLOR:Maroon;FONT:18pt Arial,sans-serif;FONT-WEIGHT:bold;TEXT-
ALIGN:center}
H3{COLOR:Maroon;FONT:12pt Arial,sans-serif;FONT-WEIGHT:bold}
```

Each of these four lines are explained below

- The first rule formats anchor tags (links) so that the text is blue, Arial font size 11 and no text decoration (which removes the underline that links usually have).
- The second rule is for when the mouse hovers over anchors (links). This rule means that when the mouse goes over a link, the link will change to red colour with an underline.
- The third rule formats level 2 headings so that they are maroon in colour, centre aligned with bold, Arial size 18 font.
- The fourth rule formats level 3 headings so that they are e maroon in colour with bold, Arial size 12 font.

Save the changes in the CSS file you are editing and then preview any one of your HTML documents to see the formatting changes.

Note Topstyle can be set as the default style editor for other programs such as Dreamweaver and Frontpage.

Style Classes

All of the style rules we have created so far specify how a certain tag will be formatted. You can also create style classes that can be used wherever you want, by placing a reference to the class in any tag you want to use it in. We will use a style class to change the formatting of the links in the navigation bar so that the mouse-over formatting will be different from other links.

Add the following 2 lines to your CSS file.

```
.NAVBAR{COLOR:Black;LINE-HEIGHT:2}  
A:HOVER.NAVBAR{BACKGROUND:Black;COLOR:Yellow;TEXT-DECORATION:none}
```

The first of these rules states that any text referring to the NAVBAR class will have black text and double line spacing.

The second rule states that any links using the NAVBAR class will change when a mouse passes over them so that the background colour becomes black with yellow text and no background.

Now we need to add some information to our HTML so that it refers to the new style class.

3. Open one of your HTML files. We will add a class attribute to one of the anchor tags in the navbar. Find the line that says

```
<TD><A HREF="index.html">Home</A></TD>
```

4. Change it so that it says

```
<TD><A HREF="index.html" CLASS="navbar">Home</A></TD>
```

This link will now refer to the navbar class in the stylesheet for its formatting. Copy the same attribute to the rest of the links in the navbar as shown below.

```
0 WIDTH="150">  
<TABLE WIDTH="150" BORDER="0" CELSPACING="0" CELLPADDING="0">  
<TR>  
<TD><A HREF="index.html" CLASS="navbar">Home</A></TD>  
</TR>  
<TR>  
<TD><A HREF="about.html" CLASS="navbar">About Kalgoorlie</A></TD>  
</TR>  
<TR>  
<TD><A HREF="history.html" CLASS="navbar">History</A></TD>  
</TR>  
<TR>  
<TD><A HREF="facilities.html" CLASS="navbar">Facilities</A></TD>  
</TR>  
<TR>  
<TD><A HREF="info.html" CLASS="navbar">More Information</A></TD>  
</TR>
```

5. Make the same changes to the other HTML files.
6. Save and preview the documents.

The completed CSS file should look like the following example (it doesn't matter if your rule lines are not in the same order).

```
A{COLOR:Blue;FONT:11pt Arial,sans-serif;TEXT-DECORATION:none}
A:HOVER{COLOR:Red;TEXT-DECORATION:underline}
A:HOVER.NAVBAR{BACKGROUND:Black;COLOR:Yellow;TEXT-DECORATION:none}
H2{COLOR:Maroon;FONT:18pt Arial,sans-serif;FONT-WEIGHT:bold;TEXT-AL
H3{COLOR:Maroon;FONT:12pt Arial,sans-serif;FONT-WEIGHT:bold}
P{FONT:11pt Arial,sans-serif;TEXT-ALIGN:justify}
.NAVBAR{COLOR:Black;LINE-HEIGHT:2}
```