

# Introducing CSS

Imagine this - you've made your 3 web pages (you have made your 3 web pages I hope...), but then your client decides it all needs to have a red background with green text and everything aligned on the right.

That means you'll have to change the HTML in all 3 pages. That's going to be irritating, especially when you have to make sure you get the code exactly the same in all 3.

Now imagine you work for the BBC. Are you seriously going to change the code for EVERY page in the entire site? That's how it used to happen...

Now we use CSS (Cascading Style Sheets). The idea is that we put a few bits of code in to describe how EVERY paragraph should look, how EVERY strong section should look (that's why we use `<strong>` instead of `<b>`), and so on.

To start with, put the following code into the header of one of your webpages:

```
<link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="mystyle.css">
```

You then need to open TextWrangler and create a file called "mystyle.css" - and save it in the same folder as your 3 HTML pages.

CSS works the following way:

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

e.g.

```
p { color: blue; }
```

You can put lots of these together (and it looks a bit like Java, with the curly brackets).

```
p {  
    color: blue;  
    font-family: arial;  
}
```

You can use this to make your text look different, maybe making all of your headings red:

```
h1 { color: red; }
```

Here are some sample properties and values. Experiment to change the style of your pages. You can find MANY more at the W3Schools website.

```
color: [red, #FF0000]  
background-color: [as above]  
text-align: [left, right, center]  
font-family: ["arial", "times new roman"]  
font-size: [could be in px, pt, even in or cm]  
margin-left: [either absolute, eg. 10px, or relative, eg. 10%]
```

## Main Task

On the VLE you will find a zip file that contains two html files and two css files. Look at the HTML and the CSS to see how it works.

Then, change the link to the CSS file to the other example (eg1.css and eg2.css). One design is more old fashioned, one is more contemporary.

Don't worry too much about the .selector and #selector - we'll look at those next time.

Your job is to create two CSS files - one to make the website look attractive, but quite plain - one to make the website look modern and interesting.

If you get time you should also create an extra HTML page to describe the nature and purpose of an ISP.