

## 8 getting started with CSS

# Adding a Little Style

Don't get me wrong, the hair, the hat, it all looks great. But don't you think he'd like it if you spent a little more time adding some style to your XHTML?



**I was told there'd be CSS in this book.** So far you've been concentrating on learning XHTML to create the structure of your Web pages. But as you can see, the browser's idea of style leaves a lot to be desired. Sure, we could call the fashion police, but we don't need to. With CSS, you're going to completely control the presentation of your pages, often without even changing your XHTML. Could it really be so easy? Well, you *are* going to have to learn a new language; after all, Webville is a bilingual town. After reading this chapter's guide to learning the language of CSS, you're going to be able to stand on *either* side of Main Street and hold a conversation.

Remember the Wizard of Oz? Well, this is the part of the book where things go from black & white to color.

## You're not in Kansas anymore

You've been a good sport learning about markup and structure and validation and proper syntax and nesting and compliance, but now you get to really start *having some fun* by styling your pages. But no worries, all those XHTML pushups you've been doing aren't going to waste. In fact, you're going to see that a solid understanding of XHTML is crucial to learning (and using) CSS. And, learning CSS is just what we're going to do over the next several chapters.

Just to tease you a bit, on these two pages we've sprinkled a few of the designs you're going to work with in the rest of the book. Quite a difference from the pages you've been creating so far, isn't it? So, what do you need to do to create them? Learn the language of CSS of course.

Let's get started...



elixirs

s/elixir.html

elixir combines the he  
d ginger root.


ass, citrus peel and i

a base of elder

the caffeine  
o power your  
just drink it.ORDER ONLINE with the  
BEAN MACHINE  
FAST  
FRESH  
TO YOUR DOORWhy wait? You can order all  
our fine coffees right from  
the Internet with our new,  
automated Bean Machine.  
How does it work? Just click  
on the Bean Machine link,  
enter your order, and behind  
the scenes, your coffee is  
roasted, ground (if you  
want), packaged, and  
shipped to your door.

ative owners.

Head First Lounge



## Welcome to the Head First Lounge

The Head First Lounge is, no doubt, the biggest trendsetter in Webville. Stop in to sample the eclectic offering of elixirs, teas, and coffees, or, stay a bit longer and enjoy the multicultural culinary menu that combines a harmony of taste, texture, and color with the best in fresh and healthy ingredients.


During your stay at the lounge, you'll enjoy a smooth mixture of ambient and mystic sounds, filling the lounge and adding an extra dimension to your dining experience. The decor surrounds you with the relaxing sentiments of sights from eras past. And, don't forget, the lounge offers free wireless access to the Internet, so bring your laptop.

**Our guarantee:** at the lounge, we're committed to providing you, our guest, with an exceptional experience every time you visit. Whether you're just stopping by to check in on an email over an elixir, or are here for an out-of-the-ordinary dinner, you'll find our knowledgeable service staff pay attention to every detail. If you're not fully satisfied, have a Blueberry Bliss Elixir on us.

But that's not all; at night, join us in the backroom as our resident DJ spins a choice selection of trance and drum&bass beats across our spacious tiki-themed dance floor. Or just hang out in one of our comfy white vinyl booths at the dance bar. You can have your elixirs delivered from the main lounge right to the dance floor. If you've had enough of the beat, just head back to the lounge area to relax. And, no matter where you are, we'll have your elixir delivered to you.


### Weekly Elixir Specials

**Lemon Breeze**



The ultimate healthy drink, this elixir combines herbal botanicals, minerals, and vitamins with a twist of lemon into a smooth citrus wonder that will keep your immune system going all day and all night.

**Chai Chiller**




Not your traditional chai, this elixir mixes mate with chai spices and adds an extra chocolate kick for a caffeinated taste sensation on ice.

My Trip Around the USA on a Segway

Segway'n USA

Documenting my trip around the US on my very own Segway!

August 20, 2005



Well, I made it 1200 miles already, and I passed through some interesting places on the way:

City	Date	Temperature	Altitude	Population	Diner Rating
Walla Walla, WA	June 15th	75	1,204 ft	29,686	4/5
Magic City, ID	June 25th	74	5,312 ft	50	3/5
Bountiful, UT	July 10th	91	4,226 ft	41,173	4/5
Last Chance, CO	July 23rd	102	4,780 ft	265	3/5
Truth or Consequences, NM	August 9th	93	4,242 ft	7,289	5/5
Why, AZ	August 18th	104	860 ft	480	3/5

The cities I visited on my Segway'n USA travels

July 14, 2005

Tess 5/5  
Tony 4/5

Starbuzz Coffee



...providing all the caffeine you need to power your life. just drink it.

### QUALITY COFFEE, QUALITY CAFFEINE

At Starbuzz Coffee, we are dedicated to filling all your caffeine needs through our quality coffees and teas. Sure, we want you to have a great cup of coffee and a great coffee experience as well, but we're the only company that actively monitors and optimizes caffeine levels. So stop by and fill your cup, or order online with our new Bean Machine online order form, and get that quality Starbuzz coffee that you know will meet your caffeine standards.

And did we mention caffeine? We've just started funding the guys doing all the caffeine. If you want the latest on coffee, stop by and pay them a visit.

151332

**ONE FREE COFFEE**

ORDER ONLINE with the BEAN MACHINE FAST FRESH TO YOUR DOOR

bean". Okay, that doesn't make a palindrome, but it is a great cup of coffee. Starbuzz's CEO is that man, and you can get a Starbuzz on every corner.

Why wait? You can order all our fine coffees right from the Internet with our new, automated Bean Machine. How does it work? Just click on the Bean Machine link, enter your order, and behind the scenes, your coffee is roasted, ground (if you want), packaged, and shipped to your door.

Starbuzz Coffee Beverages

We've got a variety of caffeinated beverages to choose from at Starbuzz, including our House Blend, Mocha Cafe Latte, Cappuccino, and a favorite of our customers, Chai Tea.

We also offer a variety of coffee beans, whole or ground, for you to take home with you. Order your coffee today using our online Bean Machine, and take the Starbuzz Coffee experience home.

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My Trip Around the USA on a Segway

June 2, 2005



My first day of the trip! I can't believe I finally got everything packed and ready to go. Because I'm on a Segway, I wasn't able to bring a whole lot with me:

- cellphone
- iPod
- digital camera
- a protein bar

Just the essentials. As Lao Tzu would have said, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with one Segway."

## Overheard on Webville's "Trading Spaces"

Not up on the latest reality TV? No problem, here's a recap: take two neighbors, two homes, and \$1,000. The two neighbors switch homes, and using the \$1,000, totally redesign a room or two in 48 hours. Let's listen in...

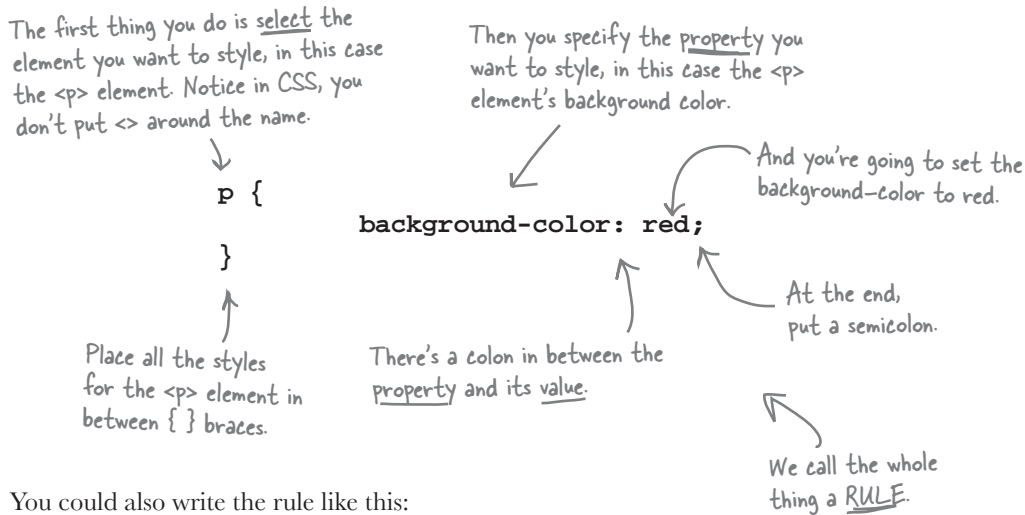


Of course, in the Webville edition of the show, everyone talks about design in CSS. If you're having trouble understanding them, here's a little translation tip: each statement in CSS consists of a location (like bedroom), a property in that location (like drapes, or carpet), and a style to apply to that property (like the color blue, or 1 inch tiles).



## Using CSS with XHTML

We're sure CSS has a bright future in the home design category, but let's get back to XHTML. XHTML doesn't have rooms, but it does have elements and those elements are going to be the locations that we're styling. Want to paint the walls of your `<p>` elements red? No problem; only paragraphs don't have walls, so you're going to have to settle for the paragraph's **background-color** property instead. Here's how you do that:



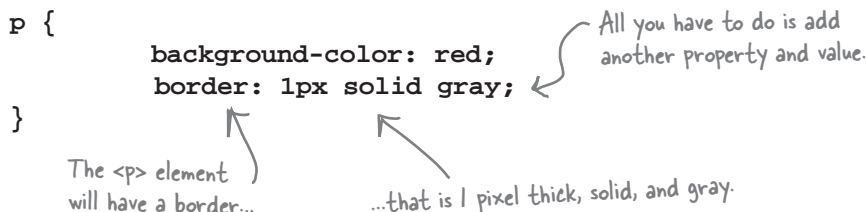
You could also write the rule like this:

```
p { background-color: red; }
```

Here, all we've done is remove the linebreaks. Like XHTML, you can format your CSS pretty much as you like. For longer rules you'll usually want to add some linebreaks and indenting to make the CSS more readable (for you).

## Wanna add more style?

You can add as many properties and values as you like in each CSS rule. Say you wanted to put a border around your paragraphs, too. Here's how you do that:



## there are no Dumb Questions

**Q:** Does every `<p>` element have the same style? Or can I, say, make two paragraphs different colors?

**A:** The CSS rules we've used so far define the style for *all* paragraphs, but CSS is very expressive: it can be used to specify styles in lots of different ways, for lots of different elements – even subsets of elements. You'll see how to make paragraphs two different colors later in this chapter.

**Q:** How do I know what properties I can set on an element?

**A:** Well, there are *lots* of properties that can be set on elements, certainly more than you'd want to memorize, in any case. You're going to get quite familiar with the more common properties in the next few chapters. You'll probably also want to find a good CSS reference. There are plenty of references online, and O'Reilly's *CSS Pocket Reference* is a great little book.

**Q:** Remind me why I'm defining all this style in a separate language, rather than in XHTML. Since the elements are written in XHTML, wouldn't it be easier just to write style in XHTML, too?

**A:** You're going to start to see some big advantages to using CSS in the next few chapters. But, here's a quick answer: CSS really is better suited for specifying style information than XHTML. Using just a small bit of CSS, you can create fairly large effects on the style of your XHTML. You're also going to see that CSS is a much better way to handle styles for multiple pages. You'll see how that works later in this chapter.



Say you have an `<em>` element inside a paragraph. If you change the background color of the paragraph, do you think you also have to change the background of the `<em>` element so it matches the background color of the paragraph?

# Getting CSS into your XHTML

Okay, you know a little about CSS syntax now. You know how to select an element and then write a rule with properties and values inside it. But you still need to get this CSS into some XHTML. First, we need some XHTML to put it in. In the next few chapters, we're going to revisit our old friends – Starbuzz, and Tony and his Segway journal – and make things a little more stylish. But, who do you think is dying to have their site styled first? Of course, the Head First Lounge guys. So, here's the XHTML for the Head First Lounge main page. Remember, in the last chapter we fixed things up a little and made it strict XHTML (would you have expected any less of us?). Now, we're adding some style tags, the easiest way to get style into your pages.

But not necessarily the best way. We'll come back to this later in the chapter and see another way.

```
<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Strict//EN"
  "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-strict.dtd">
<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml" lang="en" xml:lang="en" >
  <head>
    <meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html; charset=ISO-8859-1" />
    <title>Head First Lounge</title>
    <style type="text/css">
    </style>
  </head>
  <body>
    <h1>Welcome to the Head First Lounge</h1>
    <p>
      
    </p>
    <p>
      Join us any evening for refreshing
      <a href="beverages/elixir.html">elixirs</a>,
      conversation and maybe a game or two
      of <em>Dance Dance Revolution</em>.
      Wireless access is always provided;
      BYOWS (Bring your own web server).
    </p>
    <h2>Directions</h2>
    <p>
      You'll find us right in the center of downtown
      Webville. If you need help finding us, check out our
      <a href="about/directions.html">detailed directions</a>.
      Come join us!
    </p>
  </body>
</html>
```

Here's what we're interested in: the `<style>` element.

To add CSS style directly to your XHTML, add opening and closing style tags in the `<head>` element.

And a style type of "text/css".

And your CSS rules are going to go right in here.



## Adding style to the lounge

Now that you've got the `<style>` element in your XHTML, you're going to add some style to the Lounge to get a feel for writing CSS. This design probably won't win you any "design awards," but you gotta start somewhere.

The first thing we're going to do is change the color (something to match those red lounge couches) of the text in the paragraphs. To do that, we'll use the CSS `color` property like this:

```

<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Strict//EN"
    "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-strict.dtd">
<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml" lang="en" xml:lang="en">
  <head>
    <meta http-equiv="Content-Type"
          content="text/html; charset=ISO-8859-1" />
    <title>Head First Lounge</title>
    <style type="text/css">
      p {
        color: maroon;
      }
    </style>
  </head>
  <body>
    <h1>Welcome to the Head First Lounge</h1>
    <p>
      
    </p>
    <p>
      Join us any evening for refreshing
      <a href="beverages/elixir.html">elixirs</a>,
      conversation and maybe a game or two
      of <em>Dance Dance Revolution</em>.
      Wireless access is always provided;
      BYOWS (Bring your own web server).
    </p>
    <h2>Directions</h2>
    <p>
      You'll find us right in the center
      of downtown Webville. If you need
      help finding us, check out our
      <a href="about/directions.html">detailed directions</a>.
      Come join us!
    </p>
  </body>
</html>

```

Here's the rule that is going to specify the font color of the paragraphs.

We're selecting just the `<p>` element to apply this style to.

The property to change the font color is named "color" (you might think it would be "font-color" or "text-color", but it's not).

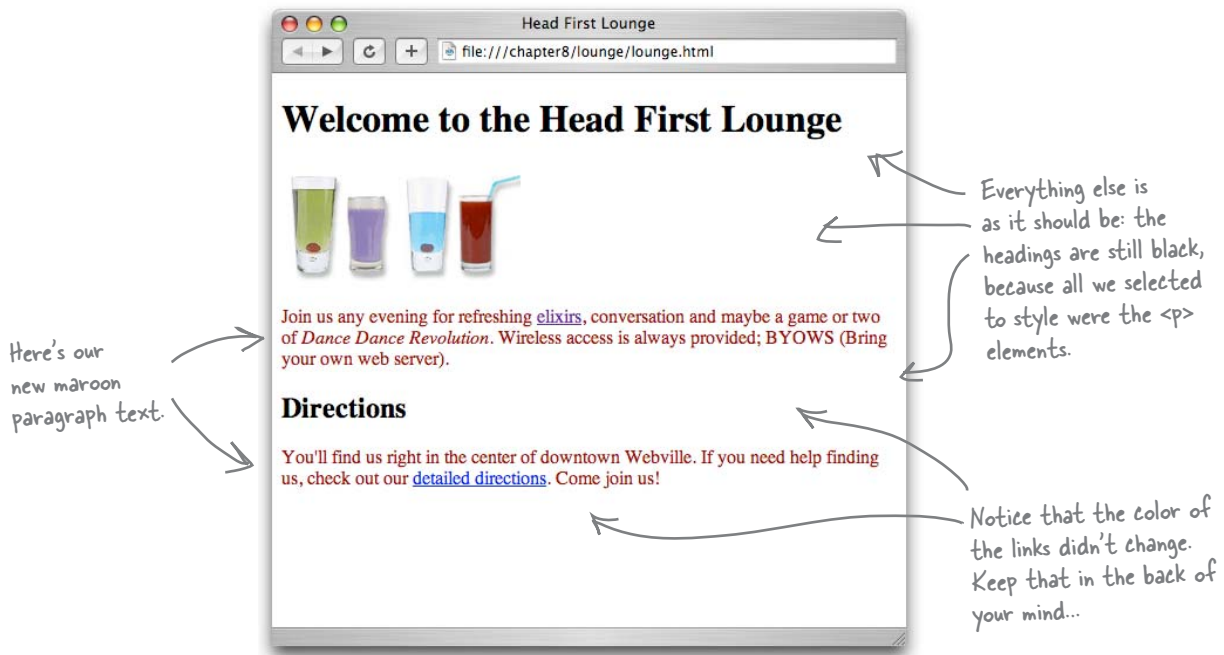
We're setting the text to a lovely maroon color that happens to match the lounge couches.

The `p` selector selects all the paragraphs in the XHTML.



## Cruising with style: the test drive

Go ahead and make all the changes from the last couple of pages to your “lounge.html” file in the “chapter8/lounge” folder, save, and reload the page in your browser. You’ll see that the paragraph text color has changed to maroon:



Instead of setting the `color`, what if you set `background-color` of the `<p>` elements to `maroon` instead? How would it change the way the browser displays the page?

## Style the heading

Now let's give those headings some style. How about changing the font a bit? Let's change both the type of font, and also the color of the heading fonts:

```
h1 {
  font-family: sans-serif;
  color:      gray;
}

h2 {
  font-family: sans-serif;
  color:      gray;
}

p {
  color: maroon;
}
```

Here's the rule to select `<h1>` elements and change the font-family to sans-serif and the font color to gray. We'll talk a lot more about fonts later.

And here's another rule to do the exact same thing to the `<h2>` element.

How about a different font for the Lounge headings? Make them *really* stand out. I'm seeing big, clean, gray...



Actually, since these rules are *exactly* the same, we can combine them, like this:

```
h1, h2 {
  font-family: sans-serif;
  color:      gray;
}

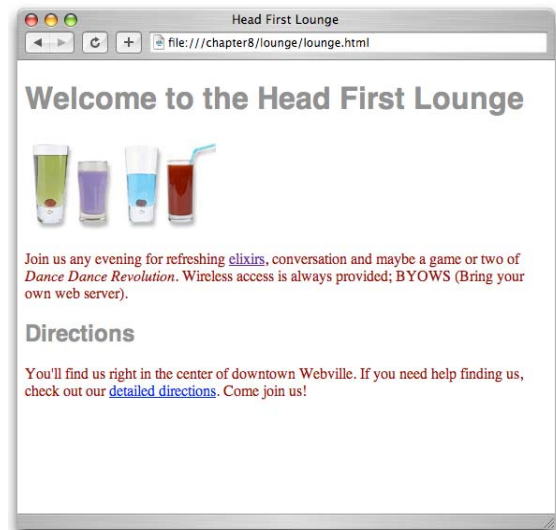
p {
  color: maroon;
}
```

To write a rule for more than one element, just put commas between the selectors, like "h1, h2".

## Test drive...

Add this new CSS to your "lounge.html" file and reload. You'll see that with one rule, you've selected both the `<h1>` and `<h2>` headings.

Both of the headings on the page are now styled with a sans-serif font and colored gray.



## Let's put a line under the welcome message too

Let's touch up the welcome heading a bit more. How about a line under it? That should set the main heading apart visually and add a nice touch. Here's the property we'll use to do that:

`border-bottom: 1px solid black;`

This property controls how the border under an element looks.

We're going to style the bottom border so that it is a 1 pixel thick, solid black line.

The trouble is, if we add this property and value to the combined “h1, h2” rule in our CSS, we'll end up with borders on both our headings:

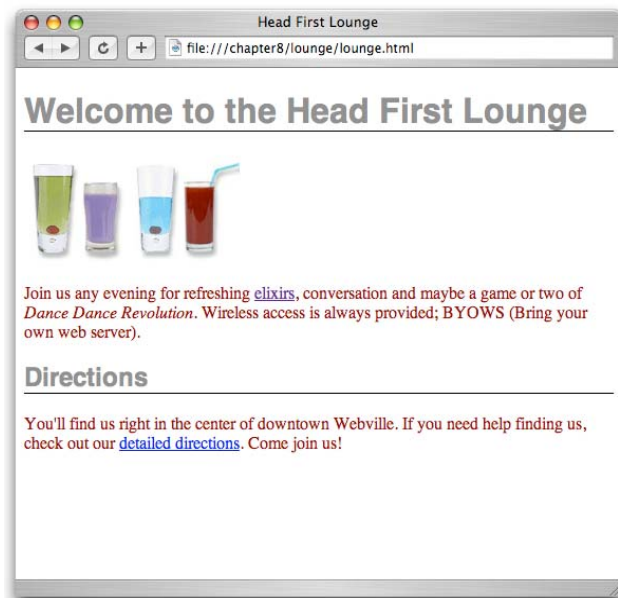
```
h1, h2 {
  font-family: sans-serif;
  color: gray;
  border-bottom: 1px solid black;
}

p {
  color: maroon;
}
```

Here we're adding a property to change the bottom border for both the <h1> and <h2> elements.

If we do this...  
... we get bottom borders on both our headings. Not what we want.

So, how can we set the bottom border on *just* the <h1> element, without affecting the <h2> element? Do we have to split up the rules again? Turn the page to find out...



## We have the technology: specifying a second rule, just for the <h1>

We don't have to split the "h1, h2" rule up, we just need to add another rule that is only for "h1" and add the border style to it.

```
h1, h2 {  
  font-family: sans-serif;  
  color: gray;  
}
```

The first rule stays the same. We're still going to use a combined rule for the font-family and color for both <h1> and <h2>.

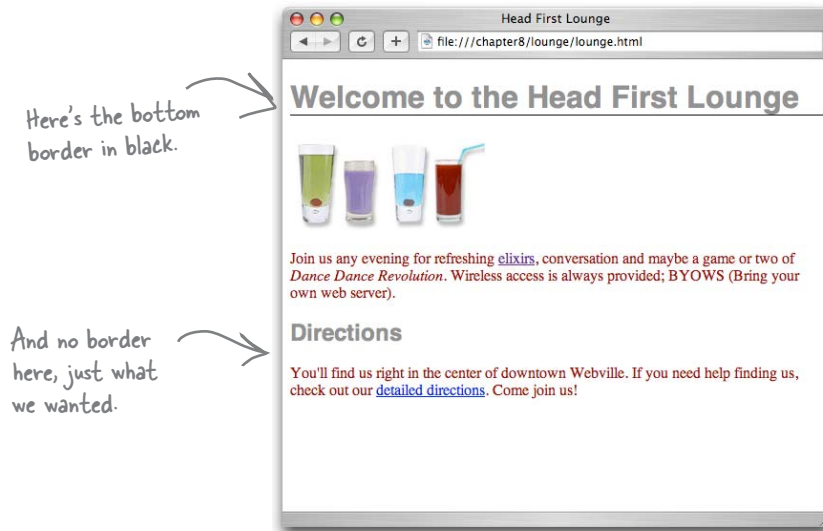
```
h1 {  
  border-bottom: 1px solid black;  
}
```

But now we're adding a second rule that adds another property just to <h1>: the border-bottom property.

```
p {  
  color: maroon;  
}
```

### Another test drive...

Change your CSS and reload the page. You'll see that the new rule added a black border to the bottom of the main heading, which gives us a nice underline on the heading and really makes it stand out.



## there are no Dumb Questions

**Q:** So how does that work when you have more than one rule for an element?

**A:** You can have as many rules as you want for an element. Each rule adds to the style information of the rule before it. In general, you try to group together all the common styles between elements, like we did with `<h1>` and `<h2>`, and then any style that is specific to an element, you write in another rule, like we did with the border-bottom style for the main heading.

**Q:** What's the advantage of that approach? Isn't it better to organize each element separately, so you know exactly what styles it has?

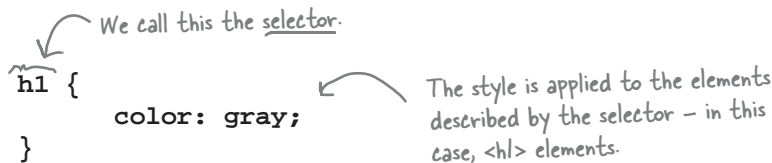
**A:** Not at all. If you combine common styles together, then if they change, you only have to change them in one rule. If you break them up, then there are many rules you have to change, which is error-prone.

**Q:** Why do we use a bottom border to underline text? Isn't there an underline style for text?

**A:** Good question. There is an underline style for text and we could use that instead. However, the two styles have slightly different effects on the page: if you use border-bottom then the line will extend to the edge of the page. An underline is only shown under the text itself. The property to set text underline is called text-decoration and has a value of "underline" for underlined text. Give it a try and check out the differences.

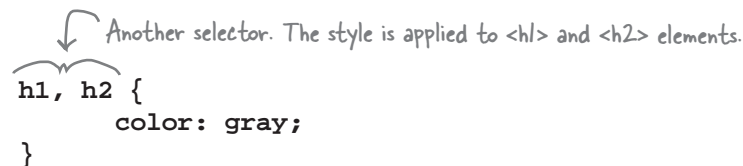
## So, how do selections really work?

You've seen how to select an element to style it, like this:



```
h1 {
  color: gray;
}
```

Or, how to select more than one element, like this:



```
h1, h2 {
  color: gray;
}
```

You're going to see that CSS allows you to specify all kinds of selectors that determine which elements your styles are applied to. Knowing how to use these selectors is the first step in mastering CSS, and to do that you need to understand the organization of the XHTML that you're styling. After all, how can you select elements for styling if you don't have a good mental picture of what elements are in the XHTML, and how they relate to one another?

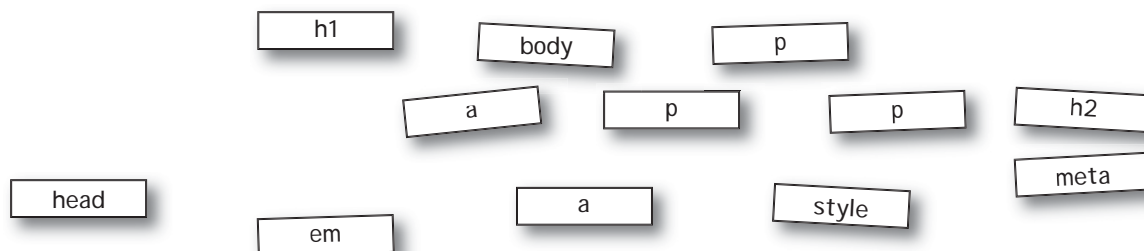
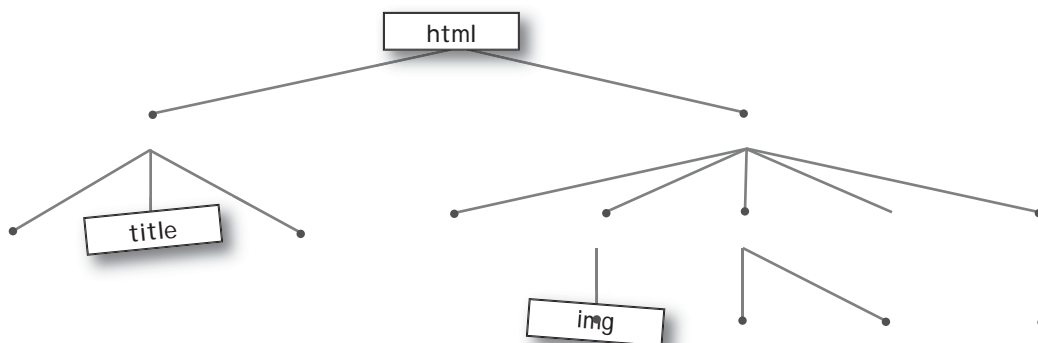
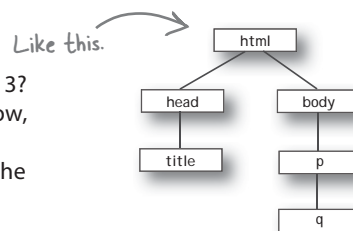
So, let's get that picture of the Lounge XHTML in your head, and then we'll dive back into selectors.





## Markup Magnets

Remember drawing the diagram of HTML elements in Chapter 3? You're going to do that again for the Lounge's main page. Below, you'll find all the element magnets you need to complete the diagram. Using the Lounge's XHTML (on the right), complete the tree below. We've done a couple for you already. You'll find the answer in the back of the chapter.



```

<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Strict//EN"
  "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-strict.dtd">
<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml" lang="en" xml:lang="en">
  <head>
    <meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html; charset=ISO-8859-1" />
    <title>Head First Lounge</title>

    <style type="text/css">
      h1, h2 {
        font-family:  sans-serif;
        color:        gray;
      }

      h1 {
        border-bottom: 1px solid black;
      }

      p {
        color: maroon;
      }
    </style>

  </head>
  <body>
    <h1>Welcome to the Head First Lounge</h1>
    <p>
      
    </p>
    <p>
      Join us any evening for refreshing
      <a href="beverages/elixir.html">elixirs</a>,
      conversation and maybe a game or two
      of <em>Dance Dance Revolution</em>.
      Wireless access is always provided;
      BYOWS (Bring your own web server).
    </p>
    <h2>Directions</h2>
    <p>
      You'll find us right in the center of downtown
      Webville. If you need help finding us, check out our
      <a href="about/directions.html">detailed directions</a>.
      Come join us!
    </p>
  </body>
</html>

```

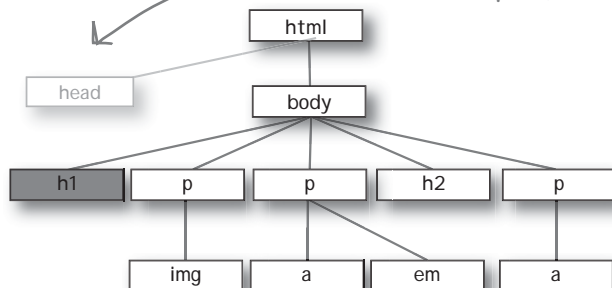
The Head First Lounge XHTML.

## Seeing selectors visually

Let's take some selectors and see how they map to the tree you just created. Here's how this "h1" selector maps to the graph:

```
h1 {
  font-family: sans-serif;
}
```

This selector matches any `<h1>` elements in the page, and there's only one.

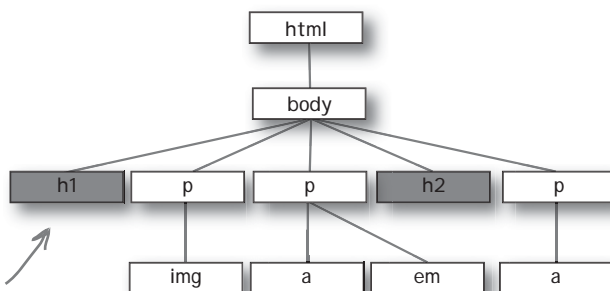


We can only style elements in the body, so we're not showing the `<head>` element and everything under it.

And here's how the "h1, h2" selector looks:

```
h1, h2 {
  font-family: sans-serif;
}
```

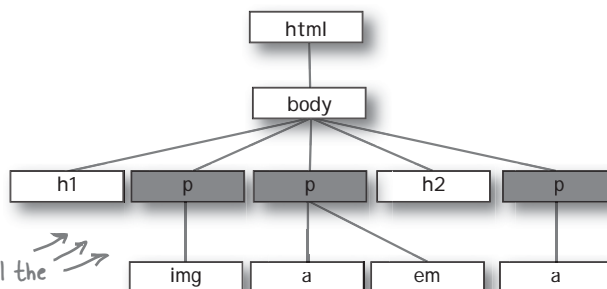
Now the selector matches both `<h1>` and `<h2>` elements.



If we use a "p" selector, here's how that looks:

```
p {
  font-family: sans-serif;
}
```

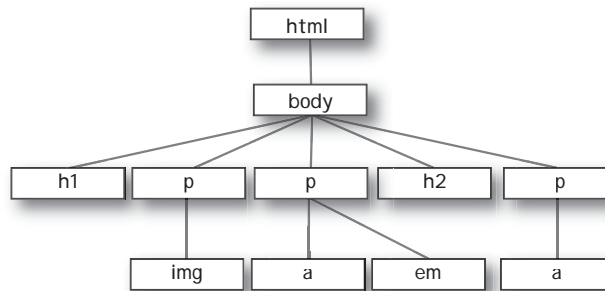
This selector matches all the `<p>` elements in the tree.



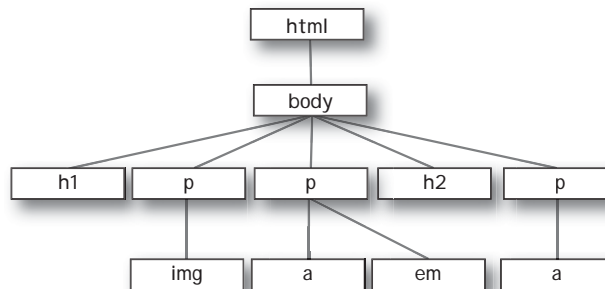


Color in the elements that are **selected** by these selectors:

```
p, h2 {  
  font-family: sans-serif;  
}
```



```
p, em {  
  font-family: sans-serif;  
}
```



## Five-Minute Mystery



### The Case of Brute Force versus Style

When we last left RadWebDesign in Chapter 4, they had just blown the corporate demo and lost RobotsRUs' business. CorrectWebDesign was put in charge of the entire RobotsRUs site and got to work getting everything nailed down before the site launch later in the month. But, you'll also remember that RadWebDesign decided to bone up on their XHTML & CSS. They decided to rework the RobotsRUs site on their own, using strict XHTML and style sheets, just to get some experience under their belt before they took on another consulting job.

As fate would have it, just before RobotsRUs' big site launch, it happened again: RobotsRUs called CorrectWebDesign with an urgent message. "We're changing our corporate look and we need all the colors, backgrounds, and fonts changed on our site." At this point, the site consisted of almost a hundred pages, so CorrectWebDesign responded that it would take them a few days to rework the site. "We don't have a few days!" the CEO said. Desperate, the CEO decided to call in RadWebDesign for help. "You flubbed up the demo last month, but we really need your help. Can you help the CorrectWebDesign guys convert the site over to the new look and feel?" RadWebDesign said they could do better than that; in fact they could deliver the entire site to them in less than an hour.

*How did RadWebDesign go from disgrace to Web page superheroes? What allowed them to change the look and feel of a hundred pages faster than a speeding bullet?*





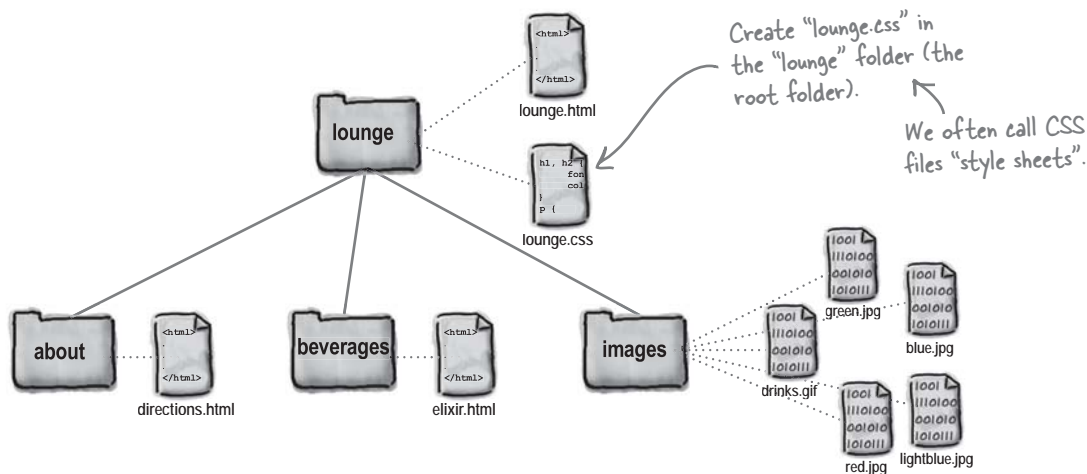
## Getting the Lounge style into the elixirs and directions pages

It's great that we've added all this style to "lounge.html", but what about "elixir.html" and "directions.html"? They need to have a look that is consistent with the main page. Easy enough... just copy the style element and all the rules into each file, right? **Not so fast.** If you did that, then whenever you needed to change the style of the site, you'd have to change *every single file* – not what you want. But, luckily, there is a better way. Here's what you're going to do:

- 1 Take the rules in "lounge.html" and place them in a file called "lounge.css".
- 2 Create an *external link* to this file from your "lounge.html" file.
- 3 Create the same external links in "elixir.html" and "directions.html".
- 4 Give all three files a good test drive.

## Creating the “lounge.css” file

You’re going to create a file called “lounge.css” to contain the style rules for all your Head First Lounge pages. To do that, create a new text file named “lounge.css” in your text editor.



Now type, or copy and paste from your “lounge.html” file, the CSS rules into the “lounge.css” file. Delete the rules from your “lounge.html” file while you’re at it.

Note that you should *not* type the `<style>` and `</style>` tags because the “lounge.css” file contains only CSS, not XHTML.

```
h1, h2 {
    font-family: sans-serif;
    color: gray;
}

h1 {
    border-bottom: 1px solid black;
}

p {
    color: maroon;
}
```

Your “lounge.css” file should look like this. Remember, no `<style>` tags!

## Linking from “lounge.html” to the external style

Now we need a way to tell the browser that it should style this page with the styles in the external style sheet. We can do that with an XHTML element called `<link>`. Here’s how you use the `<link>` element in your XHTML:

```
<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Strict//EN"
  "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-strict.dtd">
<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml" lang="en" xml:lang="en">
  <head>
    <meta http-equiv="Content-Type"
          content="text/html; charset=ISO-8859-1" />
    <title>Head First Lounge</title>
    <link type="text/css" rel="stylesheet" href="lounge.css" />
    <style type="text/css">
    </style>
  </head>
  <body>
    <h1>Welcome to the Head First Lounge</h1>
    <p>
      
    </p>
    .
    .
    .
  </p>
</body>
</html>
```

Here’s the XHTML that links to the external style sheet.

You don’t need the `<style>` element any more – just delete it.

The rest of the XHTML is the same.



### XHTML Up Close

Let’s take a closer look at the `<link>` element since you haven’t seen it before:

Use the link element to “link in” external information.

The type of this information is “text/css”. In other words, a CSS style sheet.

And the style sheet is located at this href (in this case we’re using a relative link, but it could be a full-blown URL).

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

The rel attribute specifies the relationship between the XHTML file and the thing you’re linking to. We’re linking to a style sheet, so we use the value “stylesheet”.


`<link>` is an empty element.

## Linking from “elixir.html” and “directions.html” to the external style sheet

Now you’re going to link the “elixir.html” and “directions.html” files just as you did with “lounge.html”. The only thing you need to remember is that “elixir.html” is in the “beverages” folder, and “directions.html” is in the “about” folder, so they both need to use the relative path “../lounge.css”.

So, all you need to do is add the following `<link>` element to both files:

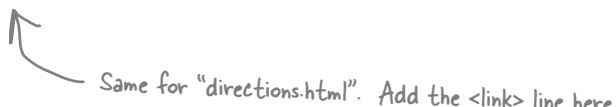
```
<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Strict//EN"
    "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-strict.dtd">
<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml" lang="en" xml:lang="en">
  <head>
    <meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html; charset=ISO-8859-1" />
    <title>Head First Lounge Elixirs</title>
    <link type="text/css" rel="stylesheet" href="../lounge.css" />
  </head>
  <body>
    .
    .
    .
  </body>
</html>
```



This is “elixir.html”. Just add the `<link>` line.

---

```
<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Strict//EN"
    "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-strict.dtd">
<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml" lang="en" xml:lang="en">
  <head>
    <meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html; charset=ISO-8859-1" />
    <title>Head First Lounge Directions</title>
    <link type="text/css" rel="stylesheet" href="../lounge.css" />
  </head>
  <body>
    .
    .
    .
  </body>
</html>
```

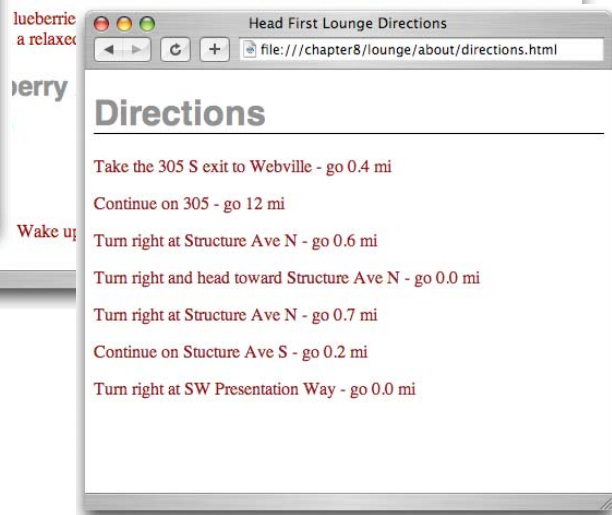
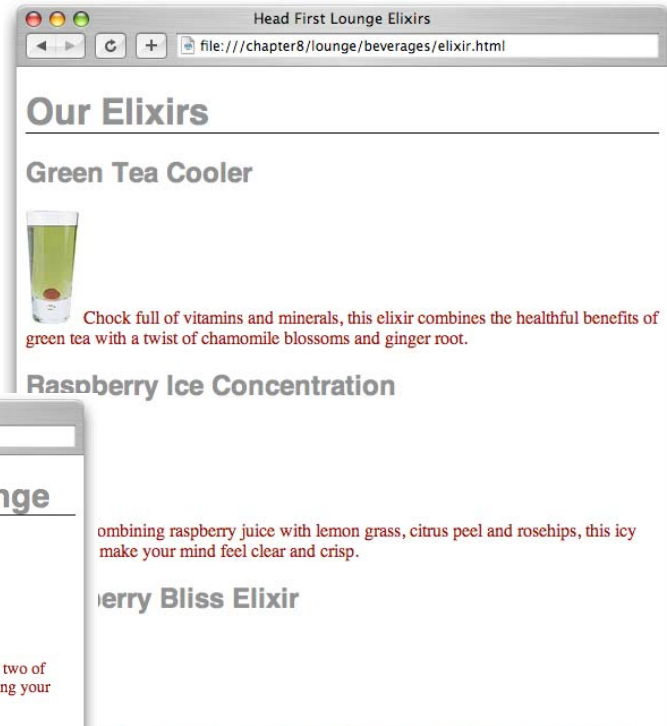
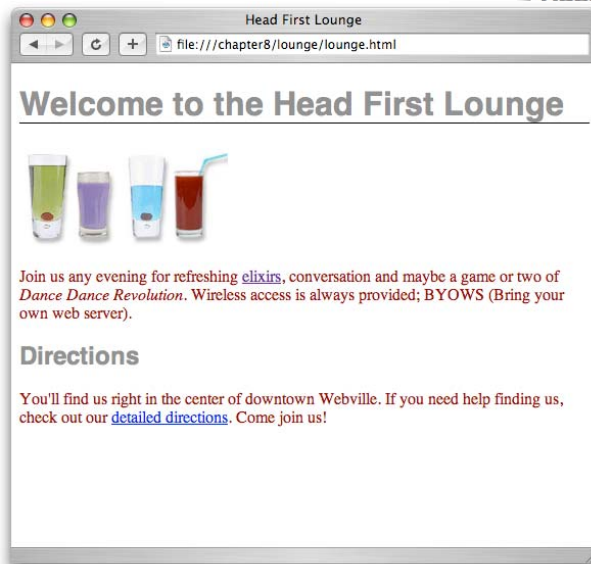


Same for “directions.html”. Add the `<link>` line here.

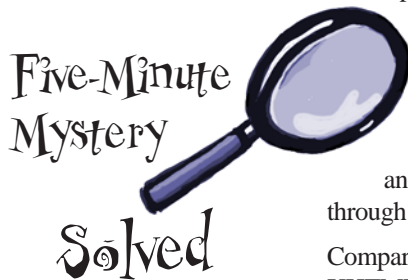
## Test driving the entire lounge...

Save each of these files and then open “lounge.html” with the browser. You should see no changes in its style, even though the styles are now coming from an external file. Now click on the “elixirs” and “detailed directions” links.

Wow! We have a whole new style for the Elixirs and Directions pages with only a *one line change* to the HTML in each file! Now you can really see the power of CSS.







## The Case of Brute Force versus Style

So, how did RadWebDesign become Web page superheroes? Or, maybe we should first ask how the “do no wrong” CorrectWebDesign firm flubbed things up this time? The root of the problem was that CorrectWebDesign was creating the RobotsRUs pages using circa 1998 techniques. They were putting their style rules right in with their HTML (copying and pasting them each time), and, even worse, they were using a lot of old HTML elements like `<font>` and `<center>` that have now been deprecated. So, when the call came to change the look and feel, that meant going into *every* Web page and making changes to the CSS. Worse, it meant going through the HTML to change elements as well.

Compare that with what RadWebDesign did: they used strict XHTML 1.0, so they had no old presentation HTML in their pages, and they used an external style sheet. The result? To change the style of the entire site, all they had to do was go into their external style sheet and make a few changes to the CSS, which they easily did in minutes, not days. They even had time to try out multiple designs and have three different versions of the CSS ready for review before the site launch. Amazed, the RobotsRUs CEO not only promised RadWebDesign more business, but he also promised them the first robot that comes off the assembly line.

## Sharpen your pencil

Now that you've got one external style file (or "style sheet"), use it to change all the paragraph fonts to "sans-serif" to match the headings. Remember, the property to change the font style is "font-family", and the value for sans-serif font is "sans-serif". You'll find the answer on the next page.

The headings use sans-serif fonts, which don't have "serifs" and have a very clean look.

The paragraphs still use the default serif fonts, which have "serifs", and are often considered more difficult to read on a computer screen.

any

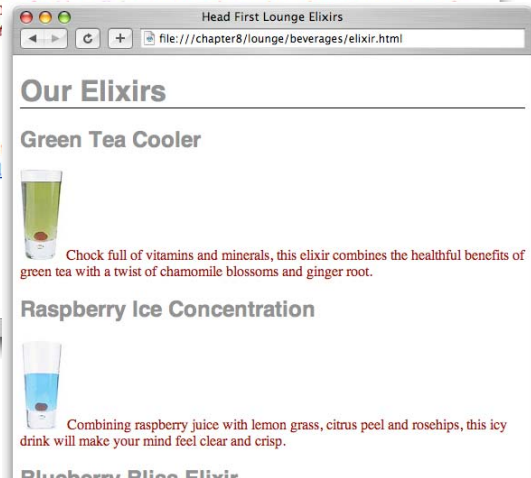
serifs.



Join us any evening for *Dance Dance Revolution* (on our own web server).

### Directions

You'll find us right in check out our [detailed](#)



### Blueberry Bliss Elixir



Blueberries and chamomile put you in a relaxed state of mind.

### Cranberry Antic



Wake up to the f

