

Introduction to CSS Training

CSS and Links

Lesson 1, Activity 2: Pseudo-classes

The styles we have seen so far are attached to element names (e.g, `div`), `class` or `id` attributes (e.g, `.big`, `#wrapper`), or position in the page structure (e.g, `ul ul`). Pseudo-classes are used to classify elements by other means. The syntax of pseudo-classes is `element: class`.

Currently, the best supported pseudo-classes all apply to link states. A link can have the following pseudo-classes.

- `a: hover` - indicates the mouse pointer is over the link
- `a: visited` - indicates the link has been visited
- `a: active` - indicates the link is active (e.g, the user has clicked down on it)

Code Sample:

Links/Demos/Links.html

```
<!DOCTYPE HTML>
<html>
<head>
<meta charset="UTF-8">
<title>CSS Links</title>
<style type="text/css">
a {
  color:#000066;
  text-decoration:none;
  cursor:pointer;
}

a:visited {
  color:#336699;
}

a:hover {
  color:#ff6600;
  text-decoration:underline;
```

```
}

a:active {
  color:#ffcc99;
  cursor:wait;
}
</style>
</head>
<body>
<h1>CSS Links</h1>
<a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com">WashingtonPost.com</a><br>
<a href="http://www.webucator.com">Webucator</a><br>
<a href="http://www.google.com">Google</a><br>

</body>
</html>
```

The code above will change how links look as the user interacts with them. To see the effects, open the page in a browser.

Note that a link can be in more than one state. For example, a link can be both visited and active. As a result, the order of the style rules matters as discussed in the callout below.

Order Matters

If `a:active` precedes `a:hover`, the effects in `a:hover` will take precedence. This means that, where there are conflicts, those properties defined for `a:active` will not be seen for visited links. So, in this example, you would not see the color change when the user clicks down on a link.

Lesson 1, Activity 3: CSS Button Links

Using pseudo-classes, it is possible to create links that look like buttons, something you needed images to do before CSS. The following example illustrates this:

Code Sample:

[Links/Demos/LinkButtons.html](#)

```
<!DOCTYPE HTML>
<html>
<head>
<meta charset="UTF-8">
<title>CSS Link Buttons</title>
<style type="text/css">
div {
  width:300px;
}

a {
  display:block;
  background-color: #eaf1dd;
  color:#060;
  text-decoration:none;
  font-family:Verdana, Geneva, sans-serif;
  font-size:1.5em;
  padding: 6px 4px;
  margin: 4px;
  border-right: 2px solid #999999;
  border-bottom: 2px solid #999999;
  border-top-width: 0px;
  border-left-width: 0px;
}

a:hover
{
  color:#030;
  border: 1px solid #9999ff;
}

a:active
{
  color:#aca;
  border-left: 2px solid #030;
  border-top: 2px solid #030;
```

```
border-right-width: 0px;
border-bottom-width: 0px;
}
</style>
</head>
<body>
<h1>Button Links</h1>
<div>
  <a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com">WashingtonPost.com</a>
  <a href="http://www.webucator.com">Webucator</a>
  <a href="http://www.google.com">Google</a>
</div>
</body>
</html>
```

The screenshots below show how these CSS buttons look in different states: the default state, the hover state, and the active state. Note that some of the properties (e.g, border, margin, and padding) used in this have not yet been covered.

Default State:

WashingtonPost.com

Webucator

Google

Hover State:

WashingtonPost.com

Webucator



Google

Active State:

WashingtonPost.com

Webucator



Google

Lesson 1, Activity 5: **Modifying Links**

Duration: 10 to 15 minutes.

In this exercise, you will modify the look and feel of the links in Stories.html.

1. Open BackgroundsAndColors/Exercises/Stories.html, which you were working on in an earlier lesson and save it in the Links/Exercises directory.
2. Modify the link styles on the page. You are also welcome to add additional links to the page. The object of this exercise is to get used to working with link properties and pseudo-classes.
3. When you are done, open Stories.html in your browser to see the results. You are welcome to go back to the code and continue to work.