

10 Tips for Writing Better CSS Code

71 Administrator Sun, Nov 29, 2009 [Web Development](#) 1 4960

In this article, we will talk about 10 different ways you can write proper and the

1. Always start with a CSS Reset

Writing CSS code can become a bit mundane when you're having to write your

ensure that every browser is displaying them properly becomes much easier if you

Scanning your css rules for easier

When you've got 100 lines of css code to sift through it can become straining

```
.classname {background: #FFF; border: 0; color: #252525; float:  
: left; margin: 0; padding: 0;}
```

You classes and the rules to make scrolling through the file and finding the proper

```
.classname { background: #FFF; border: 0; color: #252525; f  
loat: left; margin: 0; padding: 0;}
```

3. Comments are your very best friend

In the spirit of keeping your stylesheets clean and easy to read, comments are

```
***** HEADER code here *****
```

Doing this will not only save you time typing but it will be great for your clients

4. Multiple Lines One Line ... Multiple Rules

Following the simple rule above you can cut down on the clutter in your css file

```
.classname { border: 0; }.classname { background: #FFF; bor  
der: 0; color: #252525; float: left; margin: 0; padding: 0;  
}
```

5. Stay consistant with your code

Not only stay consistent in my css styles throughout stylesheets live up to all

your stylesheets by creating a specific style for writing

For instance if you're writing everything in blocks of code to separate different

6. Separate your hacks and conditional

Some people will swear against using any css hacks and scream something like

hacks and conditional elements easier without mixing your classes together

An example of how to separate your files could be like the code below which would

then be the end of your file, putting characters at the beginning and end of each

```
link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="/css/style.css" media="screen, projection"      <!--[if lt IE 8]>  
link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="/css/ie.css" media="screen"      ! [endif]-->      link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="/css/print.css" media="print"
```

7. Learn (and use) shorthand code

Shorthand code will allow you to speed up the writing process and do away with many people's mistakes, and along with that, it's just cleaner.

```
.classname { margin-left: 1px; margin-right: 2px; margin-bottom: 4px; margin-top: 1px; }
```

Writing the above code in shorthand form allows things to look much cleaner. Writing below, gives margin-top, right, bottom, left things to look much cleaner.

```
.classname { margin: 1px 2px 4px 1px; }
```

8. Create and use a table of contents

Writing a table of contents in the beginning of your stylesheet will allow you to keep your code clean and organized, very ready to edit and reuse.

```
*****1. HEADER code2. NAVIGATION code3. CONTENT code4. SIDEBAR code5. FOOTER code*****
```

9. Keep your class and ID names easy to read

There's nothing worse than going to edit a piece of code, only to find that they

```
.wackyblueline5 { ... }.leftsidesection { ... }#bodyleftcurve2 { ... }
```

Picking the proper naming structure for your classes and IDs can help you easily understand what they are doing.

```
.sidebar-title { ... }.postwrap { ... }.main-navigation { ... }
```

10. Alphabetize your css code for easier read

This is one in that you just have to realize is actually worthwhile and then that it, alphabetizing, begins to make sense of your entire codebase. Same rule.

```
.classname { border: 1px solid #dedede; color: #000; font-size: 18px; line-height: 24px; margin: 48px; padding: 0; position: relative; z-index: 101; }
```

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