

10 Tips for Writing Better CSS Code

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

In this article I want to talk about how 10 different ways you can write proper and the job done as quickly and efficiently as possible.

1. Always start with a CSS Reset

Writing CSS code can become a bit of a headache when you're having to write a lot of code that every browser is displaying things properly, so it's not easy to

2. Condensing your css rules for easier

When you're got 500 lines of css code to sift through, it can become straining on the eyes. So, instead of writing out the css code like this:

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

You can instead use the shorter make scrolling through the file and finding the proper

```
.classname { background: #FFF; border: 0; color: #252525; float: 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 a good thing. Here's an example of how you can use them to mark sections of

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

Doing this will not only save you a time-wasting but will be a great for your clients. When you're done with the code, you can go back and make the file

4. Multiple Line ... Multiple Rules

Following the simple rule above, you can cut down on the clutter in your css files. Multiple lines of code can be replaced with a single line, while multiple rules

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

5. Stay consistant with your code

It's not only a good idea to be consistent in your css styles throughout stylesheets, it's also a good idea to be consistent in the way you write your code. The problem with 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 and insist using any css hacks and conditional things like hacks and conditional elements easier, without affecting your main css code. The

A sample of how to separate your files could be like the code below, which would mean the code below, proper 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" me
dia="screen"      ![endif]--      link rel="stylesheet" t
ype="text/css" href="/css/print.css" media="print"

```

7. Learn (and use) shorthand code

Shorthand CSS code will allow you to speed up the writing process a bit. You do so many people still have trouble with using shorthand code so I'll show you

```

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

```

Writing the above code in a shorthand format allows things to look much easier. See how you get a nice top, right, bottom, left, so each number is easier.

```

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

```

8. Create and use a table of contents

Writing in a table of contents in the beginning of your stylesheet will allow you as well help keep your code clean and mean a lot, very easy to look at code, this

```

/*****1. HE
ADER code2. NAVIGATION code3. CONTENT code4. SIDEBAR code5.
FOOTER code*****/

```

9. Keep your class and ID names easy to

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

```

.wackyblueline5 { ... }.leftsidection { ... }#bodyleftcur
ve2 { ... }

```

Picking the proper naming structure for your CSS classes and ID's can help you

```

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

```

10. Alphabetize your CSS code for easier

This is one tip that I've just come to realize is actually worth while and one that it, alphabet, right, is something that these little things can be much easier to read and

```

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

```

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