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CSS BEST PRACTICES

by



01

When grouping selectors, keep individual selectors to a single line.



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```
.selector, .selector-secondary, .selector[type=text] {  
  padding:15px;  
  margin:0px 0px 15px;  
  background-color:rgba(0, 0, 0, 0.5);  
  box-shadow:0px 1px 2px #CCC,inset 0 1px 0 #FFFFFF  
}
```



```
.selector,  
.selector-secondary,  
.selector[type="text"] {  
  padding: 15px;  
  margin-bottom: 15px;  
  background-color: rgba(0,0,0,.5);  
  box-shadow: 0 1px 2px #ccc, inset 0 1px 0 #fff;  
}
```

02

Don't prefix property values or color parameters with a leading zero.



```
.selector {  
  margin-top: 0.5px;  
}
```



```
.selector {  
  margin-top: .5px;  
}
```

03

Lowercase all hex values and use shorthand hex values where available.



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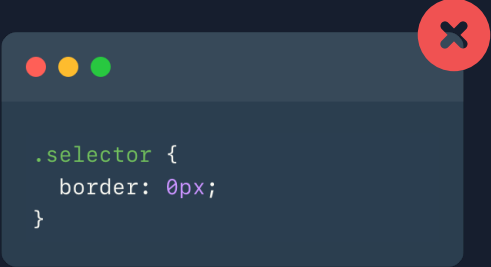
```
.selector {  
  color: #FFFFFF;  
}
```



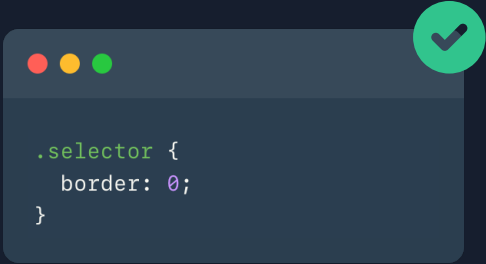
```
.selector {  
  color: #fff;  
}
```


04

Avoid specifying units for zero values.




```
.selector {  
  border: 0px;  
}
```




```
.selector {  
  border: 0;  
}
```

05

Related property declarations should be grouped together following the order; position, box-model, typography, visual, misc:



```
.declaration-order {
  font: normal 13px "Helvetica Neue", sans-serif;
  position: absolute;
  display: block;
  width: 100px;
  height: 100px;
  top: 0;
  left: 0;
  text-align: center;
  background-color: #f5f5f5;
  opacity: 1;
}
```



```
.declaration-order {
  /* Positioning */
  position: absolute;
  top: 0;
  left: 0;

  /* Box-model */
  display: block;
  width: 100px;
  height: 100px;

  /* Typography */
  font: normal 13px "Helvetica Neue", sans-serif;
  text-align: center;

  /* Visual */
  background-color: #f5f5f5;
  border: 1px solid #e5e5e5;


  /* Misc */
  opacity: 1;
}
```

06




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Don't use **!important**, is a last resort generally only used when you need to override something and there is no other way. Instead increase the specificity of the selector.




```
.some-selector {  
  font-size: 4rem !important;  
}
```



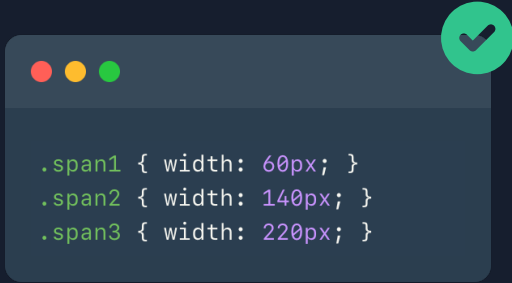
```
div.some-selector {  
  font-size: 4rem;  
}
```

07

When a rule set includes only one declaration, consider removing line breaks for readability and faster editing.



```
.span1 {  
  width: 60px;  
}  
.span2 {  
  width: 140px;  
}  
.span3 {  
  width: 220px;  
}
```




```
.span1 { width: 60px; }  
.span2 { width: 140px; }  
.span3 { width: 220px; }
```

08

Limit shorthand declaration usage to instances where you must explicitly set all available values.



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```
.element {  
  margin: 0 0 10px;  
  background: red;  
  background: url("image.jpg");  
  border-radius: 3px 3px 0 0;  
}
```




```
.element {  
  margin-bottom: 10px;  
  background-color: red;  
  background-image: url("image.jpg");  
  border-top-left-radius: 3px;  
  border-top-right-radius: 3px;  
}
```

09


Ensure your code is descriptive, well commented, and approachable by others. Great code comments convey context or purpose.



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```
/* Modal header */  
.modal-header {  
  ...  
}
```



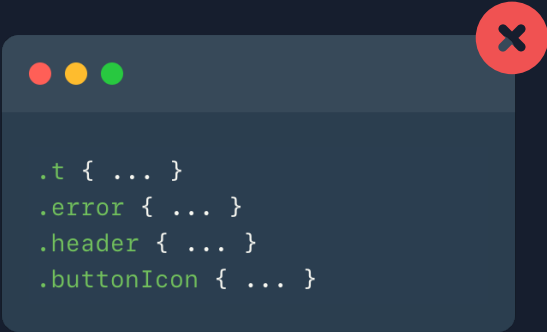
```
/* Wrapping element for .modal-title and .modal-close */  
.modal-header {  
  ...  
}
```

CLASSNAMES:

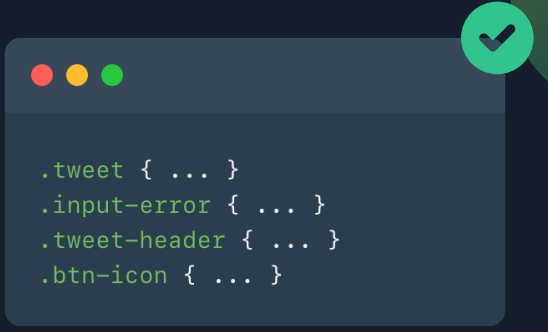
- 1 Keep them lowercase and use dashes to separate words.
- 2 Avoid excessive shorthand notation. (.btn is fine, .s is not)
- 3 Use meaningful names; use structural or purposeful names over presentational.
- 4 Prefix classes based on the closest parent or base class.

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CLASSNAMES:



```
.t { ... }  
.error { ... }  
.header { ... }  
.buttonIcon { ... }
```



```
.tweet { ... }  
.input-error { ... }  
.tweet-header { ... }  
.btn-icon { ... }
```


SELECTORS:

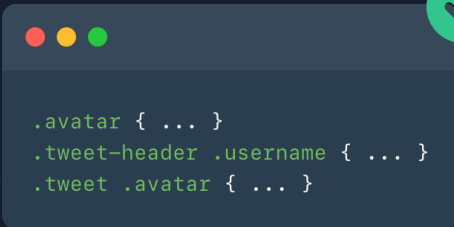
- 1 Use classes over generic element tag for optimum rendering performance.
- 2 Avoid using several attribute selectors (e.g., `[class^="..."]`) on commonly occurring components. Browser performance is known to be impacted by these.
- 3 Keep selectors short and strive to limit the number of elements in each selector to three.names over presentational.

11

SELECTORS:



```
span { ... }  
.page-container #stream .tweet .tweet-header .username { ... }  
.avatar { ... }
```



```
.avatar { ... }  
.tweet-header .username { ... }  
.tweet .avatar { ... }
```

12

Place media queries as close to their relevant rule sets whenever possible.



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```
.element { ... }  
.element-avatar { ... }  
.element-selected { ... }  
  
.other-element { ... }  
  
.yet-another-element { ... }  
  
@media (min-width: 480px) {  
  .element { ... }  
  .element-avatar { ... }  
  .element-selected { ... }  
}
```



```
.element { ... }  
.element-avatar { ... }  
.element-selected { ... }  
  
@media (min-width: 480px) {  
  .element { ... }  
  .element-avatar { ... }  
  .element-selected { ... }  
}
```