

# CSS SPECIFICITY

THE ULTIMATE WEB DESIGNER • BRAD HUSSEY

# CSS Specificity

As you get deeper into coding a website, your CSS files become large. *Sometimes very large!* The larger they become, the higher the chance you have of running into problems.

# The Specificity Rule

More Specific = Higher Priority

## For Example

Because CSS means, Cascading Style Sheets, the styles “cascade” down the document. Check this out:

```
h1 { background: black; }  
h1 { background: white; }
```

In this example, the latter style is applied to the `h1` because it comes later in the document.



## Another Example

Usually, you won't add identical selectors in your CSS, however, the more complicated the document, the higher the chance of your rules conflicting with each other. Look at this:

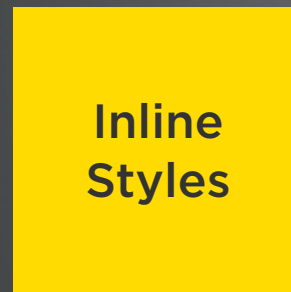
```
p em { font-weight: bold; }  
em { font-weight: normal; }
```

Even though the single **em** style came later in the document, it's **font-weight** will be **bold**, simply because the **p em** selector is more specific than **em** alone.

# Specificity Calculator

There is actually a way to calculate the specificity of a selector to see if it will take precedence over another. For example:

1000 points



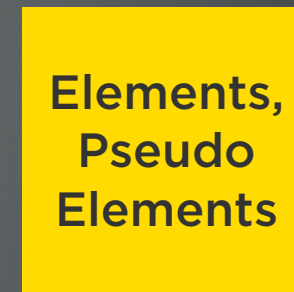
100 points



10 points



1 point



More Specific



Less Specific

## For Example

**h1** = Specificity of 1

Because it's a single HTML element.



## For Example

**.bass** = Specificity of 10

Because it's a class selector.



## For Example

`#fish h1.bass em` = Specificity of 112

Because it's an ID + HTML Element + Class + HTML Element.

100

1

10

1

## Another Example

If you declared this in your CSS:

```
111 points #fish h1.bass { background: blue; }  
110 points #fish .bass { background: red; }
```

The first selector would win, and the background of **.bass** would be blue because it has more points than the bottom selector, even though the second selector comes later in the stylesheet.

## Fun Resource!

There is a great resource on the web called **Specificity Calculator** which allows you to type two groups of selectors and it will automatically calculate the specificity of each selector for you. Then you can “sort by specificity” to see which selector’s styles would be applied.

The URL is:

<http://specificity.keegan.st/>



*YAY!*

## **CSS SPECIFICITY**

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