



CSS

Cascading Style Sheet

CSS2 – CSS/P – CSS3

WEB CSS

The goal

CSS Zen Garden

The Beauty of CSS Design



A demonstration of what can be accomplished through CSS-based design. Select any style sheet from the list, load it into this page, and download the example HTML file and CSS file.

The Road to Enlightenment

Littering a dark and dreary road lay the past relics of browser-specific tags, incompatible DOMs, broken CSS support, and abandoned browsers.

We must clear the mind of the past. Web enlightenment has been achieved thanks to the tireless efforts of folk like the W3C, WaSP, and the major browser creators.

The CSS Zen Garden invites you to relax and meditate on the important lessons of the masters. Begin to see with clarity. Learn to use the time-honored techniques in new and invigorating fashion. Become one with the web.

So What is This About

There is a continuing need to show the power of CSS. The Garden aims to excite, inspire, and encourage participation. To begin, view some of the existing designs in the list. Click on any one will load the style sheet into this very page. The remains the same, the only thing that has changed is the external CSS file. Yes, really.

CSS allows complete and total control over the style of a hypertext document. The only way this can be illustrated is by demonstrating what it can truly be, once the reins are placed in the hands of those able to create beauty from structure. Designers and coders alike contributed to the beauty of the web; we can always push it further.

Participation

Strong visual design has always been our focus. You are modifying this page, so strong CSS skills are necessary too, but the example files are commented well enough that even CSS novices can use them as starting points. Please see the CSS Resource Guide for advanced tutorials and tips on working with CSS.



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Download the example HTML file and CSS file.

BENEFITS

Why participate? For recognition, inspiration, and a resource we can all refer to showing people how amazing CSS really can be. This site serves as equal parts inspiration for those working on the web today, learning tool for those who will be tomorrow, and gallery of future techniques we can all look forward to.

REQUIREMENTS

Where possible, we would like to see mostly CSS 1 & 2 usage. CSS 3 & 4 should be limited to widely-supported elements only, or strong fallbacks should be provided. The CSS Zen Garden is about functional, practical CSS and not the latest bleeding-edge tricks viewable by 2% of the browsing public. The only real requirement we have is that your CSS validates.

Luckily, designing this way shows how well various browsers have implemented CSS by now. When sticking to the guidelines you should see fairly consistent results across most modern browsers. Due to the sheer number of user agents on the web these days — especially when you factor in mobile — pixel-perfect layouts may not be possible across every platform. That's okay, but do test in as many as you can. Your design should work in at least IE9+ and the latest Chrome, Firefox, iOS and Android browsers (run by over 90% of the population).

We ask that you submit original artwork. Please respect copyright laws. Please keep objectionable material to a minimum, and try to incorporate unique and interesting visual themes to your work. We'll keep the point of needing another garden-related design.

This is a learning exercise as well as a demonstration. You retain full copyright on your graphics (with limited exceptions, see [submission guidelines](#)), but we ask you release your CSS under a Creative Commons license identical to the one on this site, so that others may learn from your work.

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You may modify the style sheet in any way you wish, but not the HTML. This may seem daunting at first if you've never worked this way before, but follow the listed links to learn more, and use the sample files as a guide.

Download the sample HTML and CSS to work on a copy locally. Once you have completed your masterpiece (and please, don't submit half-finished work) upload your CSS file to a web server under your control. Send us a link to an archive of that file and all associated assets, and if we choose to use it we will download it and place it on our server.

Next Designs >
View All Designs

Fountain Kiss by Jeremy Carlson
A Robot Named Jimmy by meltmedia
Verde Moderna by Dave Shea
Under the Seal by Eric Stoltz
Make 'em Proud by Michael McAgnon and Scotty Reiffnyder
Orchid Beauty by Kevin Addison

View This Design's CSS
CSS Resources
FAQ
Submit a Design
Translations

SEE <http://www.csszengarden.com>



Style: local definition

```
<html><head>  
</head><body>
```

```
<h1 style="color:blue;">primo capitolo</h1>
```

nel mezzo del cammin di nostra vita

```
<h1 style="color:blue;">secondo capitolo</h1>
```

mi ritrovai per una selva oscura

```
<h1 style="color:blue;">terzo capitolo</h1>
```

che la diritta via m'era smarrita

```
</body></html>
```

Style: definition of a page style

```
<html><head>
```

```
<style>
```

```
h1 {color:blue;}
```

```
</style>
```

```
</head><body>
```

```
<h1>primo capitolo</h1>
```

nel mezzo del cammin di nostra vita

```
<h1>secondo capitolo</h1>
```

mi ritrovai per una selva oscura

```
<h1>terzo capitolo</h1>
```

che la diritta via m'era smarrita

```
</body></html>
```



Style: definition of a shared style

```
<html><head>  
<link rel="StyleSheet" type="text/CSS"  
href="../common/loadStyles.css" >  
</head><body>  
<h1>primo capitolo</h1>  
nel mezzo del cammin di nostra vita  
<h1>secondo capitolo</h1>  
mi ritrovai per una selva oscura  
<h1>terzo capitolo</h1>  
che la diritta via m'era smarrita  
</body></html>
```



Shared style

A single style may also be given through multiple style sheets:

```
<LINK REL=StyleSheet HREF="basics.css"
  TITLE="Contemporary" TYPE="text/css">
<LINK REL=StyleSheet HREF="tables.css"
  TITLE="Contemporary" TYPE="text/css">
<LINK REL=StyleSheet HREF="forms.css"
  TITLE="Contemporary" TYPE="text/css">
```

In this example, three style sheets are combined into one "Contemporary" style that is applied as a preferred style sheet.

To combine multiple style sheets into a single style, each style sheet's LINK must use the same TITLE.



Shared style

Authors can also use the LINK element to apply an external style sheet. REL=StyleSheet specifies a persistent or preferred style while REL="Alternate StyleSheet" defines an alternate style.

A persistent style is one that is always applied when style sheets are enabled. The absence of the TITLE attribute indicates a persistent style.

A preferred style is one that is automatically applied. The combination of REL=StyleSheet and a TITLE attribute specifies a preferred style. Authors cannot specify more than one preferred style.

An alternate style is indicated by REL="Alternate StyleSheet". The user could choose to replace the preferred style sheet with an alternate one, though current browsers generally lack the ability to choose alternate styles.



Formatting elements

color:*color*

background-color:*color*

background-image:*uri*

font-family:name

font-size:xx-small|x-small|small|medium|large|x-large|xx-large|
larger|smaller|*absoluteSize*|*relativeSize*|*percentage*|*length*

font-style:normal|italic

font-weight:bold|bolder|lighter|normal|100|200|...|800|900

Length units

ABSOLUTE LENGTH

International System

cm *centimetri*

mm *millimetri*

anglosaxon units

in *inch (pollici)*

pt *point: 1/72 pollice*

pc *pica: 12 point = 1/6 pollice*

System dependent:

px *pixel*

RELATIVE LENGTH:

em *altezza del font
dell'elemento*

ex *altezza estesa del font
dell'elemento*



Formatting elements

line-height:normal|*length*|*percentage*

text-align:left|center|right|justify

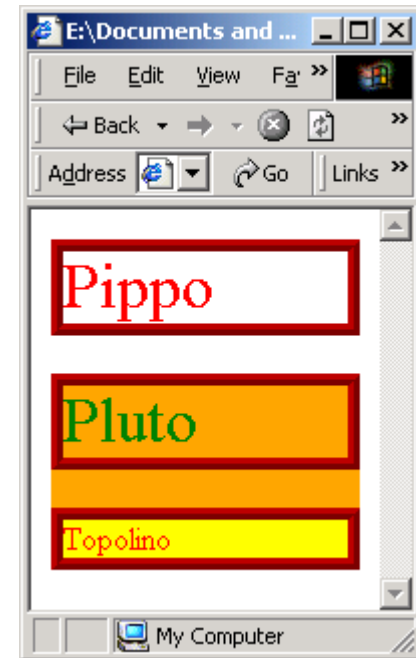
text-decoration:blink|line=through|overline|underline

text-indent:*length*|*percentage*

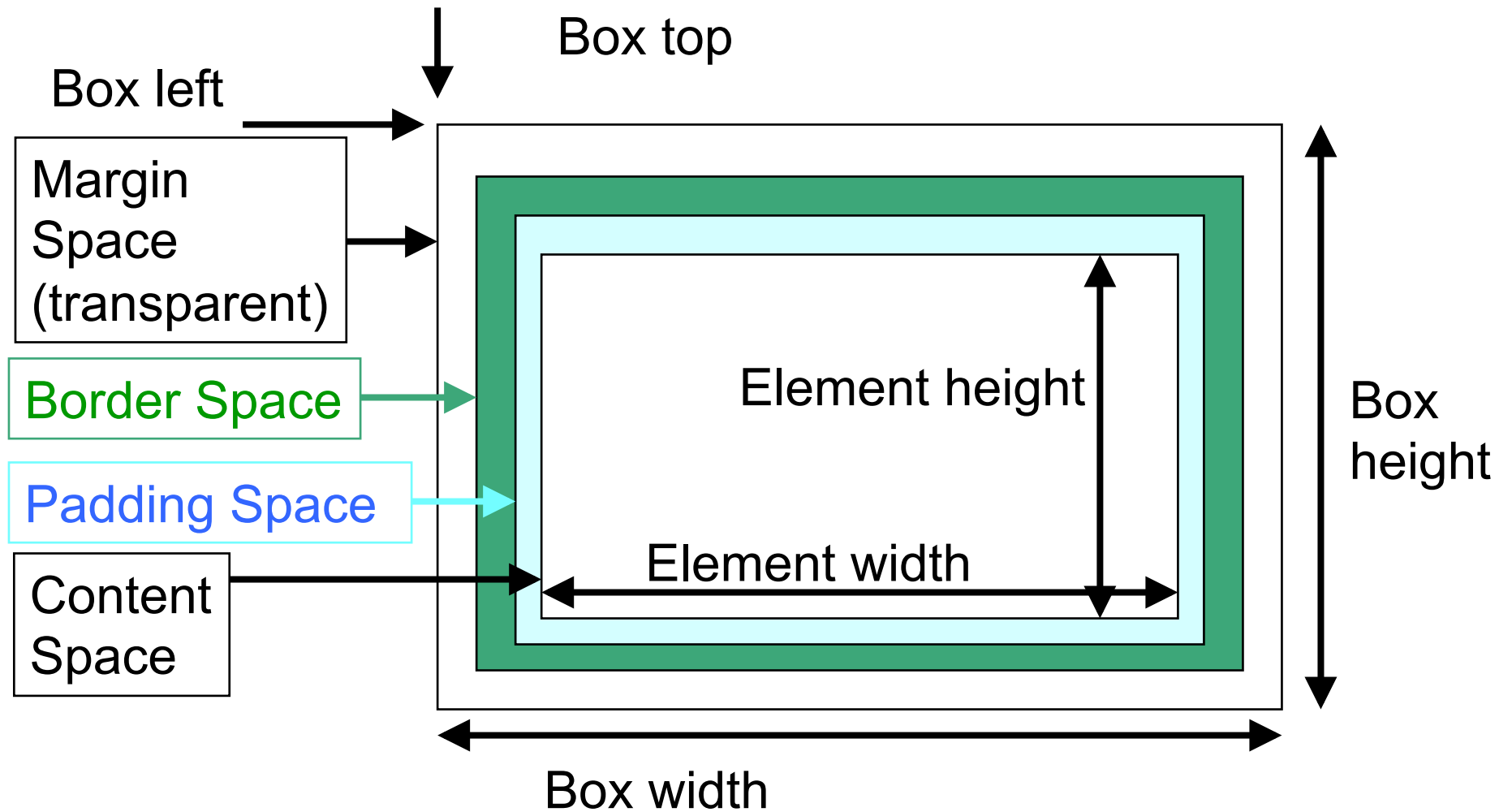
text-transform:none|capitalize|uppercase|lowercase

Styles cascade

```
<HTML>
<HEAD>
  <STYLE TYPE="text/css">
    p {font-size:24pt;color:green;
      border-width:thick;border-style:ridge;
      border-color:red}
    p.red {color:red}
  </STYLE>
</HEAD>
<BODY>
  <p class="red">Pippo</p>
  <div style="background:orange ">
    <p>Pluto</p>
    <p class="red" style="font-size:12pt;
      background:yellow">Topolino</p>
  </div>
</BODY>
```



Formatting elements





Formatting elements

border-bottom-width, border-top-width,
border-right-width, border-left-width: thin|medium|thick|n

border-color: *color*

border-style: double|groove|none|inset|outset|ridge|solid

border-width: thin|medium|thick|*length*

margin: *thickness*

margin-bottom, margin-left, margin-right, margin-top : *thickness*

padding : *thickness*

padding-bottom, padding-left, padding-right, padding-top : *thickness*

Formatting elements - lists

line-style:decimal|lower-alpha|lower-roman|upper-alpha|upper-roman

line-style:circle|disc|square

Advanced

Adjacency selector `H1+H2 {color:blue}`

Blocks H1 and H2 are consecutive

Father-son selector `BODY > P {color:red}`

Paragraph immediately contained in the BODY

Attribute selector `P[ALIGN]{color:red}`

Selects only aligned paragraphs <P ALIGN=...>

`P[ALIGN="left"]{color:red}`

Selects only left aligned paragraphs <P ALIGN="left">

`*[ALIGN="left"]{color:red}`

Selects any left aligned component ALIGN="left"

Advanceds

Pseudo-elements

P:first-letter

P:first-line

Pseudo-classes

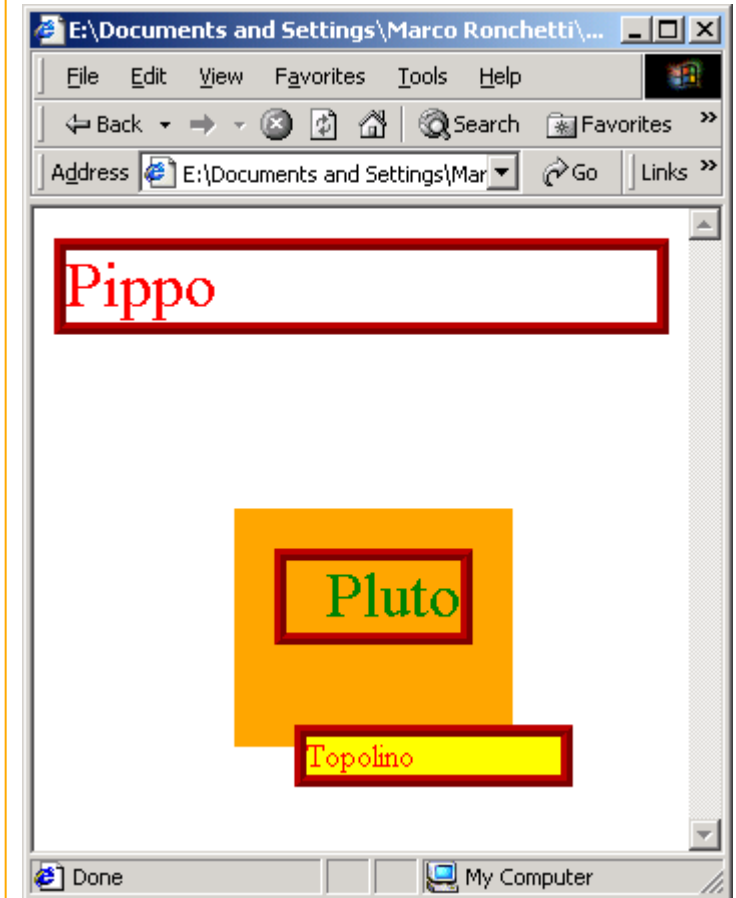
A:link *unvisited anchors*

A:active *anchors about to be visited*

A:visited *visited anchors*

Positioning examples: CSS-P

```
<HTML>
<HEAD>
  <STYLE TYPE="text/css">
    #aposition{position:relative;left:30;top:20}
    a {color:red}
    p {font-size:24pt;color:green;border-width:thick;
      border-style=ridge;border-color=red}
    p.red {color:red}
  </STYLE>
</HEAD>
<BODY>
  <p class="red">Pippo</p>
  <div style="background:orange;
    position:absolute;left:100;top:150">
    <p style="padding-left:20;margin:20">Pluto</p>
    <span id="aposition">
      <p class="red" style="font-size:12pt;
        background-color:yellow">Topolino</p>
    </span>
  </div>
</BODY>
</HTML>
```





Positionable Elements – CSS/P

Type of position specification:

position:absolute|relative

Position specification:

top:*size*

left:*size*

dimension specification:

width:*size*

height:*size*

Visibility specification:

visibility:hidden|inherit|show



Positionable Elements – CSS/P

Clip:`rect(top right bottom left)`

Clip an element (leaving it in place)

z-index:`n`

Decides the superposition ranking



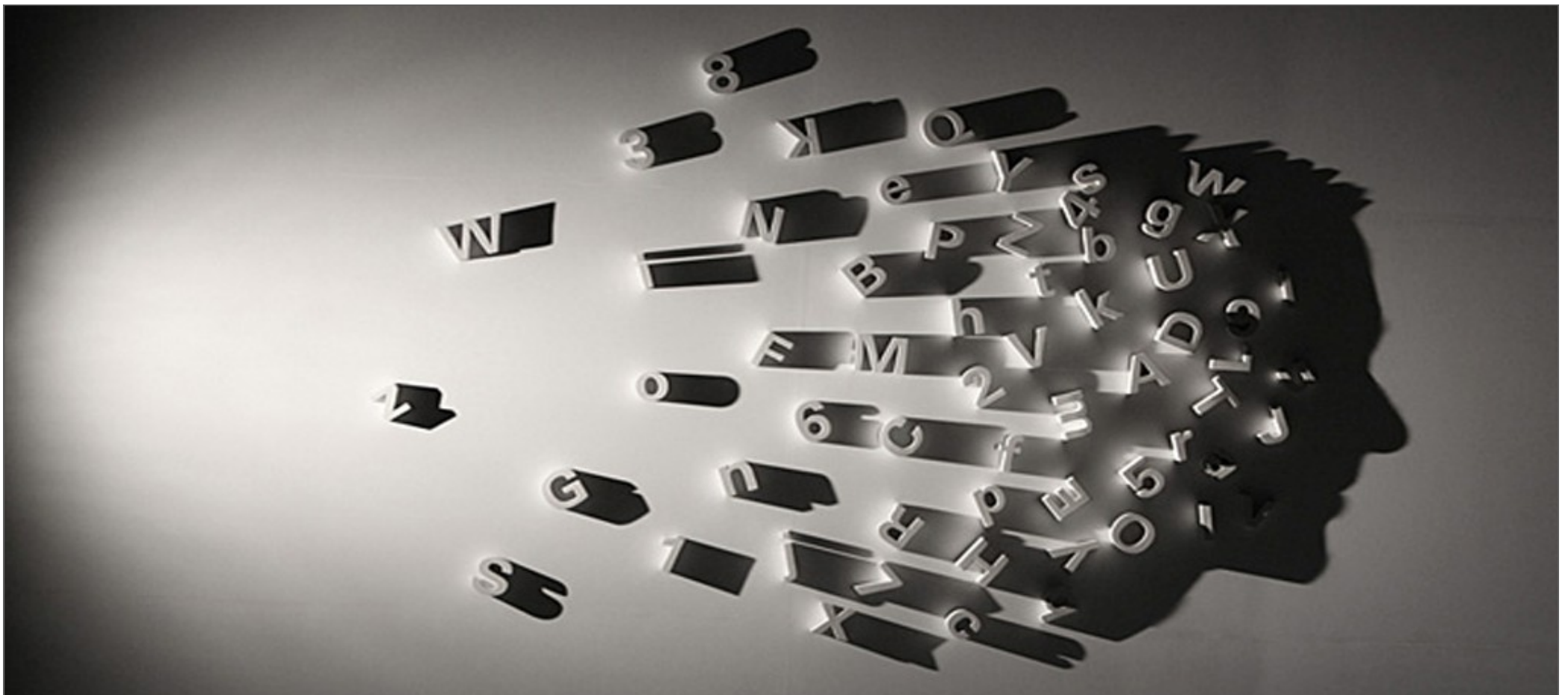
BORDER RADIUS

```
-moz-border-radius: 20px;  
-webkit-border-radius: 20px;  
border-radius: 20px;
```



BORDER IMAGE

```
-moz-border-images: url(/images/border-image.png) 5 repeat;  
-webkit-border-images: url(/images/border-image.png) 5 repeat;  
-moz-border-images: url(/images/border-image.png) 5 repeat;
```



BOX AND TEXT SHADOW

```
-moz-box-shadow: 10px 10px 25px #ccc;  
-webkit-box-shadow: 10px 10px 25px #ccc;  
box-shadow: 10px 10px 25px #ccc;  
text-shadow: 10px 10px 25px #ccc;
```



RGBA AND OPACITY

```
rgba: (200, 30 30, 0.2);  
opacity: 0.5;
```



ANY FONT YOU LIKE

```
@fontface {  
font-family: 'Museo' ;  
src: url('/fonts/museo.otf') format ('opentype') ;
```



TRANSFORM

`-webkit-transform: rotate(45deg);`

GRADIENTS

```
-webkit-gradient(linear, 0% 0%, 0% 90%, from(rgba(28, 91, 155, 0.8)),  
to(rgba(108, 191, 255, .9)));
```

TRANSITIONS

```
div { opacity: 1; -webkit-transition: opacity 1s linear; }  
div:hover { opacity: 0; }
```



MUCH MORE

Multiple Background Images

Gradient Borders

Columns Support

Masking

Text Overflow



A good tutorial

<https://www.w3schools.com/css/default.asp>