

# CSS links and attribute properties

A link `<a href...>`<sup>1</sup> typically has five properties that can be addressed.<sup>2</sup>

- Link – Defines the default state for a link
- Visited – Defines how the link will appear after being visited
- Focus – Defines how the link will appear if it has the focus, but not currently active
- Hover – Defines how the link will appear when the mouse pointer hovers over it
- Active – Defines how the link will appear when it is active (as it is being clicked)

For best results, attributes for links should be defined in that sequence.

## Links

For example:

Defining the default

```
a:link
{
...
}
a:visited
{
...
}
a:focus
{
...
}
a:hover
{
...
}
a:active
{
...
}
```

## Using an ID

```
a#speciallink:link {...}
a#speciallink:visited {...}
a#speciallink:focus {...}
a#speciallink:hover {...}
a#speciallink:active {...}
```

## Using a class

```
a.specialclass:link {...}
a.specialclass:visited {...}
a.specialclass:focus {...}
a.specialclass:hover {...}
a.specialclass:active {...}
```

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<sup>1</sup> The “a” in a link stands for “anchor”

<sup>2</sup> Other elements can often make use of these properties as well.

## Lists

Since other HTML elements can make use of these properties, here are some examples.

This would represent the appearance defined to a Menu item defined as a List Item in an Unordered List in a left-side navigation bar on hover.

```
div#leftnav ul li:hover  
{. . .}
```

In the HTML:

```
<div id="leftnav">...
```

The following allows you to define a navigation area horizontally using a horizontal unordered list, setting no bullets, but placing a vertical bar between the items

```
ul#navlist {  
  ...  
  list-style-type: none;  
}  
ul#navlist li {  
  display: inline;  
  ...  
}  
ul#navlist li a {  
  text-decoration: none;  
  border-right: 2px solid #000000;  
}
```

In the HTML:

```
<ul id="navlist">...
```

This sets the last item to have no vertical bar on the right *if you set this class on the link!*

```
ul#navlist li a.noborder { /*No "border" divider on the rightmost item*/  
  border-right: none;  
}
```

In the html:

```
<a id="navlist" class="noborder" ...>
```

This demonstrates how to change the characteristics of the above horizontal menu items on hover

```
ul#navlist li a:hover  
{...}
```

## Images

This is an example of setting these properties with an image

```
img.myimagelink {
    border: 2px outset #663508;
}
img.myimagelink:link {
    border: 2px outset #663508;
}
img.myimagelink:visited {
    border: 2px outset #663508;
}
img.myimagelink:focus {
    border: 2px outset #D7C8BE;
}
img.myimagelink:hover {
    border: 2px outset #D7C8BE;
}
img.myimagelink:active {
    border: 2px inset #D7C8BE;
}
```