



The Handbook

Codex

[http://codex.wordpress.org/CSS Shorthand](http://codex.wordpress.org/CSS_Shorthand)

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CSS Shorthand

[CSS](#) shorthand is used to condense, combine, and shorten your CSS code. It's a good idea to use CSS shorthand because it will improve your WordPress site's performance. While it isn't required for [validation](#), CSS shorthand is an important part of [code optimization](#). Note: Use this technique with caution as some browsers, typically "older" browsers, can't handle it.

One CSS shorthand technique is to condense or combine similar codes, known as *declarations* or [attributes](#) (<http://www.w3.org/TR/REC-CSS2/selector.html#attribute-selectors>), into a more concise structure. For example:

```
h1 {margin:0; font-weight:bold; font-size:130%; color:blue;
    padding-left:5px; padding-top:10px}
h2 {margin:0; font-weight:bold; font-size:120%;
    color:navy; padding-left:5px}
h4 {margin:0; font-weight:bold; font-size:105%;
    font-style:italic; color:blue; padding-top:1.5em}
```

The mouth-full of code above can be condensed into something a little more manageable. As shown below, CSS permits grouping selectors and giving them a shared declaration. See how the selectors can be grouped on one line with commas as separators?

```
h1, h2, h4 {font-weight:bold}
h1, h4 {color:blue}
h1, h2 {padding-left:5px}
h1, h2, h4 {margin:0}
h1 {font-size:130%;padding-top:10px}
h4 {padding-top:1.5em;font-size:105%;font-style:italic}
h2 {font-size:120%;color:navy}
```

There are also ways of combining measurements in CSS declarations. Measurements for margins and padding are sequenced in **clock-wise positions**: *top, right, bottom, left*. So a measurement for a *division* or *class* might be:

```
.box {margin-top: 10px; margin-right: 20px;
      margin-bottom: 10px; margin-left: 20px; }
```

Consolidate all of that into [CSS](#) shorthand and it abbreviates to:

```
.box {margin: 10px 20px 10px 20px; }
```

That's much shorter and will certainly execute faster!

There are other modifications you can use when the margin values are repeated. In the example above, the top and bottom margins of 10px, and the left and right margins of 20px, would condense to:

```
.box {margin: 10px 20px}
```

You can also streamline your border codes. Here is a border [CSS](#) code for a box:

```
.box {border-top: 1px; border-right: 1px; border-bottom: 1px;
      border-left: 1px; border-color: blue; border-style: solid}
```

This can all be consolidated down to the [CSS](#) shorthand of:

```
.box {border: 1px blue solid}
```

Not all CSS codes can be grouped and condensed, but this article has described the most common ones. Remember, using CSS shorthand will make your WordPress site faster!

CSS Shorthand Resources

- [W3's CSS-2 Selector Specifications](http://www.w3.org/TR/REC-CSS2/selector.html) (<http://www.w3.org/TR/REC-CSS2/selector.html>)
- [W3.or's CSS-2 Shorthand Properties](http://www.w3.org/TR/REC-CSS2/about.html#shorthand) (<http://www.w3.org/TR/REC-CSS2/about.html#shorthand>)
- [O'Reilly's Definitive CSS Guide: Grouping](http://skaiste.elekta.lt/Books/O'Reilly/Bookshelves/books/webdesign/css/ch02_02.htm) (http://skaiste.elekta.lt/Books/O'Reilly/Bookshelves/books/webdesign/css/ch02_02.htm)
- [WebSiteOptimization's CSS: Group Selectors and Declarations](http://www.websiteoptimization.com/speed/tweak/grouping/) (<http://www.websiteoptimization.com/speed/tweak/grouping/>)
- [WebSiteOptimization's CSS: Use Shorthand Properties](http://www.websiteoptimization.com/speed/tweak/shorthand/) (<http://www.websiteoptimization.com/speed/tweak/shorthand/>)
- [Writing Efficient CSS](http://www.communitymx.com/content/article.cfm?cid=A43B828960590F55&print=true) (<http://www.communitymx.com/content/article.cfm?cid=A43B828960590F55&print=true>)
- [Introduction to CSS Shorthand Properties](http://home.no.net/junjun/html/shorthand.html) (<http://home.no.net/junjun/html/shorthand.html>)
- [Sorehead's CSS shorthands](http://www.sorehead.org/css/shorthand.html) (<http://www.sorehead.org/css/shorthand.html>)
- [Streamlining with Web Standards](http://hotwired.lycos.com/webmonkey/03/36/index0a.html) (<http://hotwired.lycos.com/webmonkey/03/36/index0a.html>)
- [Introduction to CSS shorthand properties](http://home.no.net/junjun/html/shorthand.html) (<http://home.no.net/junjun/html/shorthand.html>)
- [Sitepoint's Introduction to CSS Shorthand](#)