

POST-CLASS LEARNING AND PRACTICE 3.1: UNDERSTAND THE CORE CSS CONCEPTS

Lesson Objective 3.1:

Understand the core CSS concepts.

Resources, software, and additional files needed for this lesson:

1. None.

Additional learning resources:

MSDN®:

Internet Explorer® Learning: <http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/ie/gg593671>

Cascading Style Sheets: [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms531205\(v=vs.85\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms531205(v=vs.85).aspx)

Other resources (books, e-reference):

About: What is CSS?: <http://webdesign.about.com/od/xhtml/u/htmlcssxml.htm#s5>

W3Schools: <http://www.w3schools.com/html5>

Student activity:

Directions to the student:

Read the following scenario and answer the questions. Verify your answers with the instructor.

Scenario:

Southridge Video is located in rural Ohio. The store's website offers a variety of services, including a search engine that identifies videos currently in stock.

The owner of the store has been receiving complaints from his customers about the website. The customers mentioned that the text on the site is difficult to read and the colors are inconsistent from one page to the next. He contacted the web developer to look into the problems. It seems that the fonts used for the site might not be universal fonts and the users might not have the necessary fonts installed, especially because many customers have older PCs.

Content:

1. How can the developer correct the problems?
2. If the colors and fonts are not consistent, the developer probably did not use an external Cascading Style Sheet (CSS). What styling elements need to be in an external CSS to resolve these issues?
3. As a rule, how can the developer avoid this type of problem in the future?

KEY 3.1: UNDERSTAND THE CORE CSS CONCEPTS

Content:

1. How can the developer correct the problems?

The developer should include a generic font such as sans-serif as an alternate font in the style sheet. Also, any color attributes should be kept separate from the HTML code.

2. If the colors and fonts are not consistent, the developer probably did not use an external Cascading Style Sheet (CSS). What styling elements need to be in an external CSS to resolve these issues?

The external CSS file should include at a minimum: body selector with background color, font color, and font family. It should also include heading selectors, paragraph selectors, and any section selectors (div tags).

3. As a rule, how can the developer avoid this type of problem in the future?

Always separate style from content, and include alternatives for fonts or other styles that are more likely to work with older PCs.