

Troubleshooting CSS

[Introduction](#)

[Caching issues](#)

[Fixing caching for the child theme stylesheet](#)

[Fixing caching issues for Divi Builder CSS](#)

[Incorrect CSS format](#)

[Resources](#)

[Action Items](#)

Introduction

Welcome to the lesson about the CSS troubleshooting. In this lesson, I would like to discuss a few common situations which may cause your custom CSS not to work correctly. I would like to help you learn to troubleshoot CSS networking and offer some possible solutions and things to keep an eye for.

Caching issues

So the first most common issue that causes CSS not to work is caching. Often when you don't see your custom styles on your site it's because the browser or other system has cached an older version of your site.

To see if it's a caching issue, you should make sure if your CSS changes are loaded on a page or not. Do that by checking your website source. So right-click -> View Page Source.

And if you are adding CSS to Divi Builder and you disable the static CSS file generation, your CSS code should be visible right here inline. For example, as you see here:
et-divi-customizer-global-cachedinline-styles.

```

54 <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0, maximum-scale=1
55 <style type="text/css" media="screen">
56 html { margin-top: 32px !important; }
57 * html body { margin-top: 32px !important; }
58 @media screen and ( max-width: 782px ) {
59     html { margin-top: 46px !important; }
60     * html body { margin-top: 46px !important; }
61 }
62 </style>
63 <style id="et-divi-customizer-global-cached-inline-styles">.container,.et_pb_row,
64 <body class="home page-template-default page page-id-139 logged-in admin-bar no-custc
65 <script type="text/javascript">
66     (function() {
67         var request, b = document.body, c = 'className', cs = 'customize-support'
68
69         request = true;
70
71         b[c] = b[c].replace( rcs, ' ' );

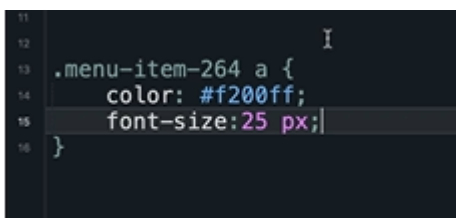
```

So this would be generated by your Theme Customizer settings. And here at the end, it's minified but at the end of that line of code, if I scroll, I can see my CSS, let me show you.

```
.menu-item-265 a{color:blue}</style></head>
```

In the Theme Options -> Custom CSS I have `.menu-item-265 a {color: blue;}` and now in my page source I can see that this is loaded on a page.

And if you are adding CSS to the style sheet, then this is the code I have in my style sheet: `.menu-item-264 a {color: #f200ff; font-size: 25px;}`



```

11
12
13 .menu-item-264 a {
14     color: #f200ff;
15     font-size: 25 px;
16 }

```

And now to see if that is loaded on a page I can click on my child theme style CSS file in the page source and I can see that this code is loaded.

```

<link rel='stylesheet' id='dashicons-css' href='http://localhost:10058/wp-includes/css/dashicons.min.css?ver=5.7.1' type='text/css' />
<link rel='stylesheet' id='admin-bar-css' href='http://localhost:10058/wp-includes/css/admin-bar.min.css?ver=5.7.1' type='text/css' />
<link rel='stylesheet' id='wp-block-library-css' href='http://localhost:10058/wp-includes/css/dist/block-library/style.min.css?ver=5.7.1' type='text/css' />
<link rel='stylesheet' id='dsa-styles-css' href='http://localhost:10058/wp-content/plugins/dsa-functionality/assets/stylesheets/dsa-styles.css?ver=1.0' type='text/css' />
<link rel='stylesheet' id='divi-style-css' href='http://localhost:10058/wp-content/themes/Divi/style.css?ver=4.9.4' type='text/css' />
<link rel='stylesheet' id='dsa-style-css' href='http://localhost:10058/wp-content/themes/dsa-child/style.css?ver=1.0' type='text/css' />

```

```

/*
Theme Name: Divi Stylist Academy
Description: This is a sample child theme
Author: Ania R.
Template: Divi
Version: 1.0
License: GNU General Public License v2 or later
License URI: http://www.gnu.org/licenses/gpl-2.0.html
Text Domain: dsa
*/

.menu-item-264 a {
    color: #f200ff;
    font-size: 25px;
}

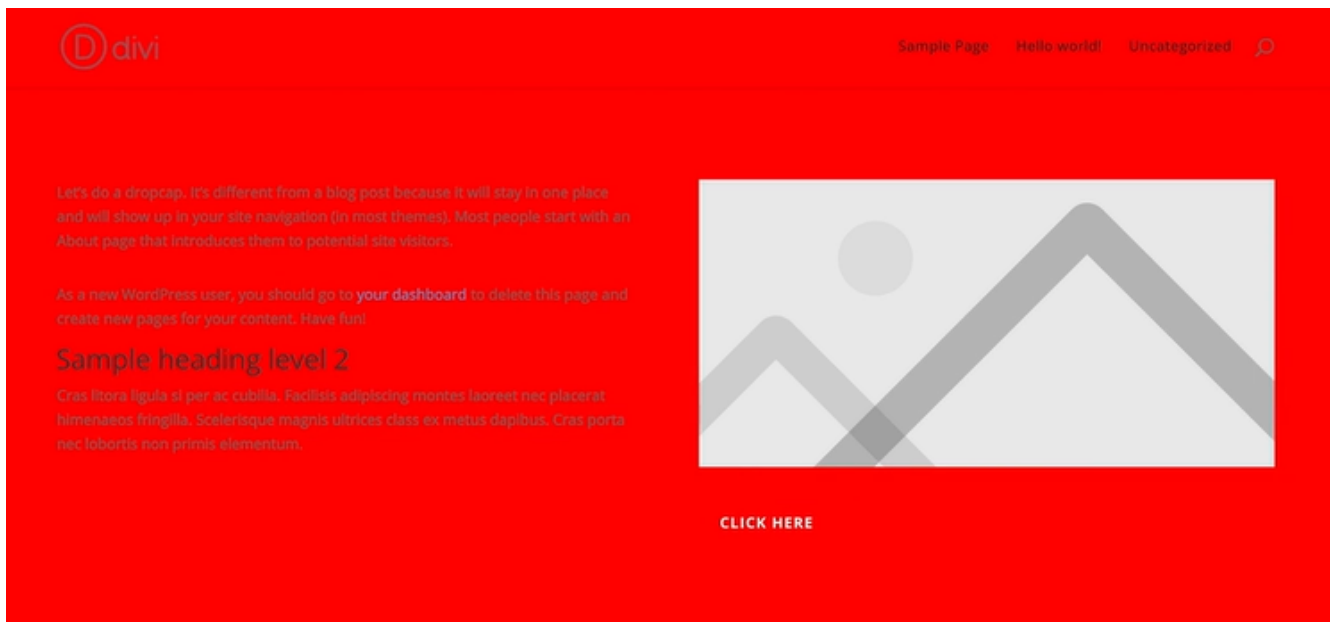
```

If your child theme file is long, you can run a quick search to see if the code you've just added is here. If you are not sure if the browser loads your CSS code, you can add something obvious like a star symbol.

A star is the universal selector which selects all elements. Let's add `* {background: red!important}`

```
* {background: red!important}
```

If I save my file, refresh my page, I can immediately see that my CSS is being loaded.



So if you confirm that your code is loaded but it's not working as you imagine, it is not a caching issue and we'll get back to it in a moment. But if you can't see your code in the website source, here's what you can do.

Fixing caching for the child theme stylesheet

If you've added CSS to the style sheet and WordPress doesn't load the latest version of the file from your child theme, here is what you can do. If you are using the sample child theme I included for you, you can change the version number inside the head of the style CSS file.

```
/*
Theme Name: Divi Stylist Academy
Description: This is a sample child theme
Author: Ania R.
Template: Divi
Version: 1.0
License: GNU General Public License v2 or later
License URI: http://www.gnu.org/licenses/gpl-2.0.html
Text Domain: dsa
*/
```

If I change the number here, for example from 1.0 to 1.1, and view my source, that will force WordPress to load the latest version file. And as you can see that version number is added here in the style CSS URL.

```
wp-includes/css/dashicons.min.css?ver=5.7.1' type='text/css'>
wp-includes/css/admin-bar.min.css?ver=5.7.1' type='text/css'>
/wp-includes/css/dist/block-library/style.min.css?ver=5.7.1' type='text/css'>
content/plugins/dsa-functionality/assets/style.css?ver=1.1' type='text/css'>
content/themes/Divi/style.css?ver=4.9.4' type='text/css'>
content/themes/dsa-child/style.css?ver=1.1' type='text/css'>
```

Fixing caching issues for Divi Builder CSS

If you added your code to Divi settings, so either the Theme Customizer, Theme Options, or the Builder somewhere, and you don't see it in your page source, it is very likely that you see the cached version of the website. And in this case, if you are using any caching plugin, I would suggest disabling it while developing a site. And if you are making edits to a live website, make sure to clear any plugin cache once you make your changes.

Obviously, you need to clear your browser cache, too, and if doing that doesn't seem to help, there are a couple of additional strategies to try. You can open the page using a different browser or using the private mode, so an incognito window. This can often help you see the uncached version of your site.

Some hosts will provide caching for you right on the server level, which is where your site files are stored, so if you're not sure, you may want to contact your host and ask if they are caching your site. And if they are, ask them to clear that cache for you.

And occasionally just loading your site over a different internet source can help to bypass any existing cache. If you have a mobile device, the simplest way to do this is to temporarily turn off Wi-Fi on your device and reload the page.

Here are all these strategies on a list for a quick review:

- Clear your site and plugin cache
- Try a different browser or the private mode
- Ask your Host if they have a cache
- Try a different Internet source.

Incorrect CSS format

Now, what if it is not a caching issue but simply the changes you apply don't take effect. It is possible that you have a problem with your CSS format. To find a formatting error in the code, you can use the [CSS Validator](#). You can paste your CSS code right here and simply click check, and this tool will let you know if it finds any problems in your code.

And it's not perfect but it should pick up the most common issues such as double brackets or missing brackets. Remember that forgetting the closing bracket is a common mistake and will usually prevent all CSS below it from being shown in the browser.

Another common mistake is the misuse of colon and semicolon. Be sure to include a colon between every CSS property and value and the semicolon right after a value so the browser can read your CSS correctly. And it's possible that you've added some unnecessary white space. For the most part, CSS isn't very picky about white space, you know, with tabs and spaces. An exception to this, however, is for units. 25px will work but 25 px with a space will not.

```
.menu-item-264 a {  
    color: #f200ff;  
    font-size:25 px;  
}
```

```
.menu-item-264 a {color: #f200ff; font-size: 25 px}
```

But there is one error the Validator won't help you with and that would be a problem with your selector. For example, if you are targeting an element and specifying multiple parent containers, you need to make sure to include them in the correct order.

```
.et_pb_column .et_pb_row .my-module {  
    background:red;  
}
```

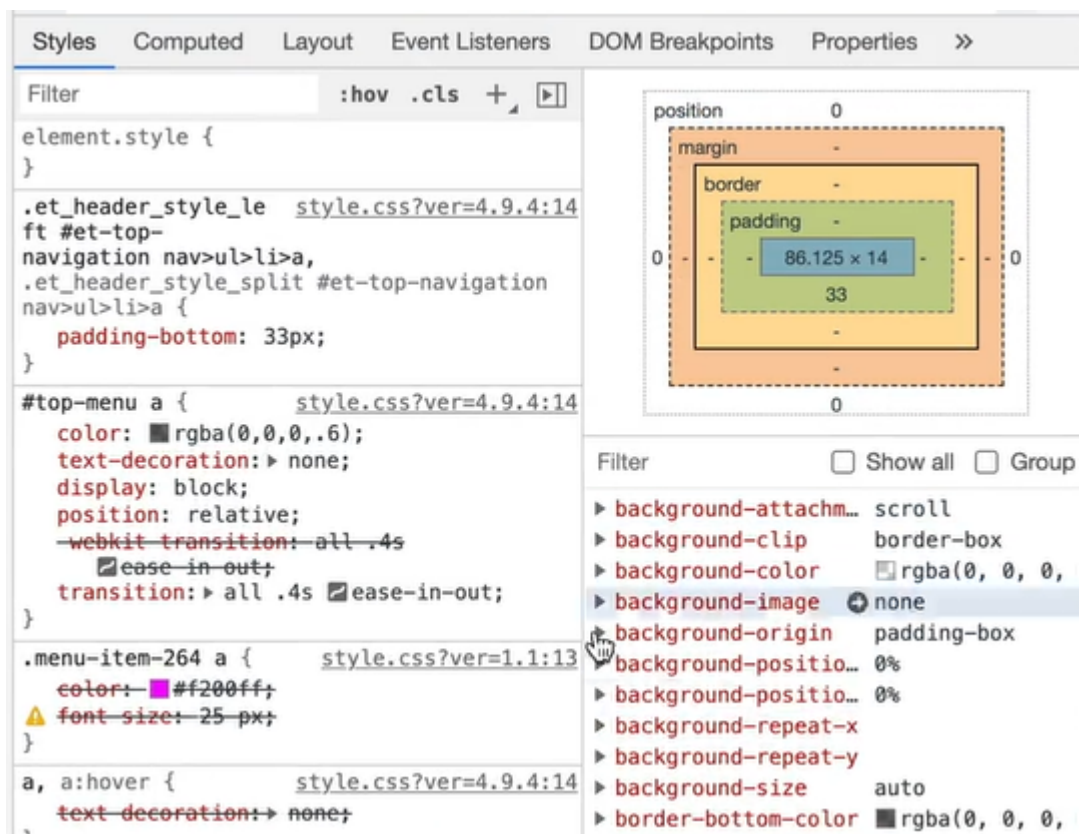
```
.et_pb_column .et_pb_row .my-module {background:red;}
```

So the column is not a parent of a row, so selecting a module with a class my-module won't work in this case.

We need to make sure to include the parent containers in the correct order so that each element is a descendant of the previous one.

```
.et_pb_row .et_pb_column .my-module {background: red;}
```

And to check if you used the correct selector, inspect your page and select the element you are targeting. For example, I'm targeting this menu item here. So if I right-click this item and inspect, I need to check this right-hand column here for the property I am trying to edit to see if it's listed here.



So I am changing the color, and my CSS is listed here but it's stricken through. And if it's here, that means that my selector is correct. But if you don't see your CSS property value listed here and crossed out, and you already eliminated caching issues, that would mean that your selector is incorrect.



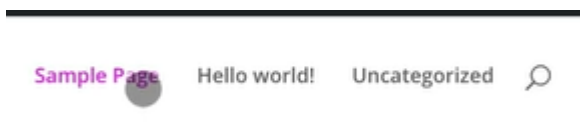
Now if it is being overwritten, we need to make sure that the selector we are using has more specificity value than what is affecting the element now. So right now I can see that there is a “#top-menu a” selector that defines the color of that element that's taking effect.



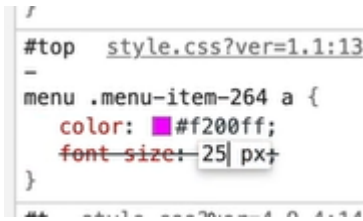
And my “.menu-item-264 a” selector is not specific enough, because it only uses a class, and that one uses an ID and an element.

So to change that, I can add that ID to my selector, so #top-menu.

```
#top-menu .menu-item-264 a {color: #f200ff; font-size: 25 px}
```



Now if I refresh my menu item, my color does work, and as you can see my 25 pixels with space doesn't take effect, but it works after removing that space.



So you can also see that here, in the browser inspector, this would tell you if you're using some invalid property. So I hope these tips will save you some frustrations and help you work with your CSS troubles proactively.

Resources

[W3C CSS Validator](#)

Child Theme's CSS Troubleshooting Guide - available in the Downloads section of this lesson

Action Items

- ☐ Download the "Child Theme's CSS Troubleshooting Guide" and see what steps to follow if you are having troubles using child theme stylesheet for your CSS edits.