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Advanced CSS Selectors

Hello and welcome to the lesson about defining Advanced CSS Selectors. In the previous module, I showed you a few different ways to target your website elements. But in this video, I'm going to go over a few additional ways to target things. You should find this information helpful when deciding which selector to use if an element doesn't have any specific class or an ID. Here is my HTML basic structure and I will add my styles inline here. So we can see everything at once.

Star symbol

And first the star symbol, and the star symbol is the universal selector. It is usually used to reset some of the default browser styling like padding and margin. You will see that in the Divi stylesheet for sure, but it can also be used to select every element in a specific container. So for example if I want to target everything inside the footer, I could specify font size 35em. Okay. So, my footer font size has to be very small for example. So star selects everything and by defining the parent container, we can select everything within that parent, all the descendants elements.

Descendant selector

And speaking of the descendants elements as we learned in the previous module, a space symbol is a descendant selector and it targets all children elements of the parent container. I also mentioned the direct child, right angle bracket. Let's maybe add an H2 here, and also here.

Just so it is in a different place. Okay. So to target a direct descendant with the right angle bracket, let's say content > H2 and color red so that we can see it better. So this selector targets the direct descendants of the element if there would be H2 further down the page source, for example, add another div - here which holds that H2 that won't work on that H2 because it no longer is the direct descendant. Now it has a separate parent. Okay, so it would work like this but not with that kind of selector. We have another element with a content class here and this H2 is a direct descendant. So here it works.

Sibling elements

But we also have selectors which allows you to target sibling elements and the general sibling with the tilde symbol. Let me show you, let's say, I want to target all the siblings of this paragraph text. So P with a class subtitle and then tilde, the symbol, and all the paragraphs. So this selector selects elements that are siblings of the first element and come after the first element. So this is my first element and I selected all the Ps that are siblings and come after if there would be an additional P here this won't be selected even though it is a sibling, but it's not after the element, okay? So this targets siblings after the element and a very similar adjacent sibling with a plus symbol will also target a sibling, but only the first element and also right after that first specified element here, okay? So, that's why this only targets this first P right after the P with the class subtitle.

Attributes

Next, attributes, and we can select elements based on the HTML attributes the tag has, okay. So the simplest option we can specify to target some element which has a certain attribute. So for example, if it

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has an ID. Okay, so anything with an ID but we have ID on the main container so that selects everything but let's say that would be a class. Now, we only have this ID here, P ID important. You see, if I want to only target a class or just the class, ok? So again this is a class. So we target everything and now I have this div with a content sticky class. So again, everything is selected and the footer has a class. So it's also selected, I could only specify to target footer with a class, okay? But I can be more specific. So let's say, I want to target a P with an exact class. So class equals and then, in quotes I can specify subtitle. Okay, this way, so class is probably not a great example for an attribute, but if it would be something like Href for example, so let me kind of fold this content here for a moment. So that you can see this A elements here. So if I target A, with the Href attribute, index.html. You see? So equals and then in quotes, the exact attribute, if it would be just the index, it won't select it but the index.html. So if it has the same exact attribute that would select it. But we also can be less specific and use a "begins with" a certain string. So that is a caret symbol right here after the attribute name. So like that, if it starts with, in, for example, okay, it's still worked if it would be in page 2, that would select this element as well. Okay, so attribute name, then caret symbol equals and in quotes, the thing that the attribute begins with or similarly ends with and that would be using the dollar sign symbol. so, if it ends with HTML, that would select all my links but if this one would be different, I'm sure you see how that works here. A similar approach is with a star symbol. That would look for that string, anywhere within the selector, so within the attribute. So "pa" this has in page and this is page or just a letter G which one has the letter G these two, okay. So star right after the attribute name, will select everything with that string here. And it also works on a class. So let's say that would be content 1 and then I have content 2 and I want to select or

maybe let's use that on this paragraph. Okay, so I want to select and remove this here. Everything that class starts with a content. So any element that has an attribute class that starts with, which is the caret - content. So, any attribute with a content class and that also includes my footer down here, if I want to be more specific, I can only select P elements with the class that starts with content.

Pseudo-class :not

And the last selector I want to mention is the pseudo class "not". Very, very useful. So I want to select all the Ps, which not and then, in the brackets round brackets, I can specify a different value which does not have a certain class or which does not use a certain ID. So for example, Not an ID of the important. So if it's not important, let's make it okay, green? And that selects all these paragraphs. Except for this one. So in Divi the not selector is very useful If we want to target things outside of the Visual Builder because normally our style sheet or the stylist from within the theme options will be loaded when we are using the visual builder but sometimes we don't want that. If we are hiding things, for example, we might want to be able to see them and that is when It is very useful to use the body CSS class, inside the Visual Builder. The body element has a class of et_fb. So by selecting elements this way, both the not et_fb and then some class we want to use and we want to make sure that the CSS only applies to the front end, not while we're working on that page in the Visual Builder. That is the selector we can use as the parent container.

So I hope this summary is helpful and I'm sure you'll find many ways you can use these different types of selectors, when defining your targets.