

CSS, cont.

October 7, Unit 4

Generic Containers

- Currently, we know how to modify the properties of HTML tags using style sheets
- But, we can only modify the tags and what they contain
 - Can't modify a group of tags as one
- The generic containers, `` and `<div>`, allow us to group tags or words

Generic Containers, cont.

- The generic container tags do absolutely nothing, until they are modified by attributes.
- The `` tag is an inline tag
 - Can modify the language (`lang` attribute), font color, font-family, font-style, etc.
- The `<div>` tag is a block-level tag
 - Allows us to group paragraphs together with lists, etc.
 - Can be used to create navigation bars

 Tag

- The span tag is useful for applying attributes to some text
 - ex. I love **chocolate-covered** espresso beans

CSS:

```
span.chocolate {  
    font-family: Times;  
    color: #330;  
}
```

HTML:

```
I love <span class = "chocolate"> chocolate-covered  
espresso beans</span>
```

, cont.

- can be contained within block-level and inline-level elements
- The attributes of are:
 - id : the id from the style sheet
 - class : the class from the style sheet
 - lang : language of the text
 - dir : specifies the direction of text (ltr, rtl)

Using ``

- Span should not be used when there is an appropriate standard html tag
 - e.g do not use `` to italicize text
 - Use the `<i>` tag
 - The `<i>`, ``, `` etc. also have attributes
 - Including `<style>`, `<lang>` etc.
 - `<i style =“color: red; font-family: Courier”>`
- You do not have to specify a CSS rule to use span
 - I love ``
chocolate-covered espresso beans``

, cont.

- should be used only to modify small portions of text
 - Do not use to modify all of a paragraph
- If you do need to use span, and will need the same modifications more than once or twice, add a class to your style sheet
- Also helpful to use a style sheet so that you only have to modify a single file to change the way the document appears

<div> Tag

- Probably the most common use for the <div> tag is for navigation bars
- <div> is a block-level tag (like a paragraph)
- Can contain any number of block-level tags or inline tags
 - Can group paragraphs, with lists, with tables, e.g.

<div>

- <div> tags will most often be used inside the <body> tag and inside other <div> tags
 - Can be nested
- Often <div> tags are modified using the id attribute, rather than class
 - You only have one navigation bar, e.g.
 - The properties you want for a certain portion of your page are unique

Simple Navigation Menu

CSS

```
div#sidebar {  
    float:left;  
    background-color:  
#ccf;  
    width: 10%;  
}
```

HTML

```
<div id = "sidebar">  
    <ul>  
        <li>Item1 </li>  
        <li>Item2</li>  
        <li>Item3</li>  
    </ul>  
</div>
```

In Class Examples

- Simple left-nav bar
- Simple right-nav bar
- Simple top nav bar
- Combining top and side nav bars

When to Use Generic Containers

- Generic containers are a sort of “last resort”
- If you can get the look you want by using a regular html tag, you should
 - Can be modified using the class or id attribute and a style sheet
- You should only use generic containers when there is no tag which “fits the meaning of the content”
 - e.g. There is no tag for navigation bars

Happy Thanksgiving!

