

3.19 Text Properties

If you glance back at the CSS property categories in Figure 3.13, you can see that we've finished with the color properties and the font properties and next are the text properties. With the font properties, we focused on appearance characteristics of individual characters. Now, with text properties, we'll focus on appearance characteristics of groups of characters. We've already talked about `line-height`, which is a text property. We won't bother to cover all the text properties,

just the more important ones. Specifically, here's what's on the agenda—`text-align`, `text-decoration`, `text-transform`, and `text-indent`.

text-align Property

The `text-align` property specifies the horizontal alignment for a block of text. Here are the valid values for the `text-align` property:

text-align Values	Description
left	Align the text at the left.
right	Align the text at the right.
center	Center the text.
justify	Stretch the lines so that each line extends to the left edge and the right edge.

If you use `justify` for the `text-align` property, the browser stretches all the lines in a block of text, except for the block of text's bottom line. The bottom line uses left justification. That behavior mimics what you see for paragraphs in newspapers and magazines, and that's why `justify` is used primarily for `p` elements.

text-decoration Property

The `text-decoration` property specifies something decorative that is added to text. Here are the valid values for the `text-decoration` property:

text-decoration Values	Description
none	This displays normal text (no decoration added).
underline	Draw a line below the text.
overline	Draw a line above the text.
line-through	Draw a line through the text.
blink	This causes the text to blink.

Because underlining is so common, you should memorize the following technique for generating an underline:

```
.underlined {text-decoration: underline;}
```

Normally, you should avoid using the `blink` value because it can be very annoying. But if your aim is to antagonize, go for it!

text-transform Property

The `text-transform` property controls the text's capitalization. Here are the valid values for the `text-transform` property:

text-transform Values	Description
<code>none</code>	The text renders the same as the original text.
<code>capitalize</code>	Transform the first character of each word to uppercase.
<code>uppercase</code>	Transform all characters to uppercase.
<code>lowercase</code>	Transform all characters to lowercase.

What's the point of `text-transform`? Why not just use the desired case in the original HTML code? You might want to provide uppercase and lowercase buttons on your web page that allow users to dynamically change the page so it displays all uppercase or all lowercase. You can implement that with JavaScript and the `text-transform` property. You'll learn how to do that later when we get to the JavaScript portion of the book.

text-indent Property

The `text-indent` property specifies the size of the indentation of the first line in a block of text. The block's second and third lines (and so on) are unchanged; that is, they do not get indented. If you want to adjust all the lines in a block of text, use the `margin` property, not the `text-indent` property. You'll learn about the `margin` property later in this chapter.

The most appropriate way to specify a value for the `text-indent` property is to use `em` units. Here's an example type selector rule that uses the `text-indent` property:

```
p {text-indent: 4em;}
```