

# CSS - PSEUDO ELEMENTS

CSS pseudo-elements are used to add special effects to some selectors. You do not need to use JavaScript or any other script to use those effects. A simple syntax of pseudo-element is as follows –

```
selector:pseudo-element {property: value}
```

CSS classes can also be used with pseudo-elements –

```
selector.class:pseudo-element {property: value}
```

The most commonly used pseudo-elements are as follows –

Value	Description
:first-line	Use this element to add special styles to the first line of the text in a selector.
:first-letter	Use this element to add special style to the first letter of the text in a selector.
:before	Use this element to insert some content before an element.
:after	Use this element to insert some content after an element.

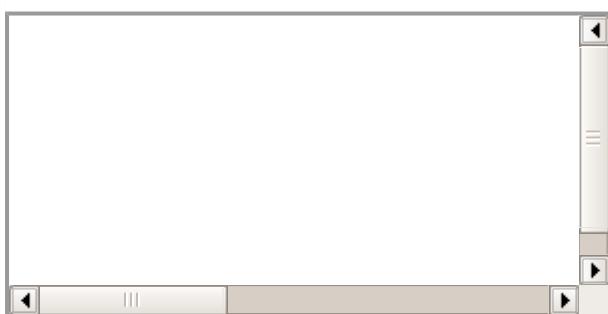
## The :first-line pseudo-element

The following example demonstrates how to use the `:first-line` element to add special effects to the first line of elements in the document.

```
<html>
  <head>
    <style type="text/css">
      p:first-line { text-decoration: underline; }
      p.noline:first-line { text-decoration: none; }
    </style>
  </head>
  <body>
    <p> This line would not have any underline because this belongs to nline
    class.</p>

    <p>The first line of this paragraph will be underlined as defined in the CSS rule
    above. Rest of the lines in this paragraph will remain normal. This example shows how to
    use :first-line psedu element to give effect to the first line of any HTML element.</p>
  </body>
</html>
```

It will produce the following link –



## The :first-letter pseudo-element

The following example demonstrates how to use the `:first-letter` element to add special effects to the first letter of elements in the document.

```
<html>
  <head>
    <style type="text/css">
      p:first-letter { font-size: 5em; }
      p.normal:first-letter { font-size: 10px; }
    </style>
  </head>
  <body>
    <p> First character of this paragraph will be normal and will have font size 10 px;</p>
    <p>The first character of this paragraph will be 5em big as defined in the CSS rule above. Rest of the characters in this paragraph will remain normal. This example shows how to use :first-letter psuedo element to give effect to the first characters of any HTML element.</p>
  </body>
</html>
```

It will produce the following black link –

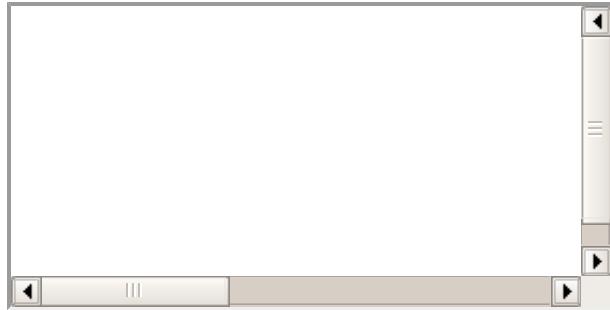


## The :before pseudo-element

The following example demonstrates how to use the `:before` element to add some content before any element.

```
<html>
  <head>
    <style type="text/css">
      p:before
      {
        content: url(/images/bullet.gif)
      }
    </style>
  </head>
  <body>
    <p> This line will be preceded by a bullet.</p>
    <p> This line will be preceded by a bullet.</p>
    <p> This line will be preceded by a bullet.</p>
  </body>
</html>
```

It will produce the following black link –



## The :after pseudo-element

The following example demonstrates how to use the `:after` element to add some content after any element.

```
<html>
  <head>
    <style type="text/css">
      p:after
      {
        content: url(/images/bullet.gif)
      }
    </style>
  </head>
  <body>
    <p> This line will be succeeded by a bullet.</p>
    <p> This line will be succeeded by a bullet.</p>
    <p> This line will be succeeded by a bullet.</p>
  </body>
</html>
```

It will produce the following black link –

