

Cascading Style Sheets

Style sheets allow you to ensure that text is consistently formatted in all pages throughout a site. In DreamWeaver styles are called CASCADING STYLE SHEETS (CSS Styles for short). Cascading means to flow, so a CSS style created in DreamWeaver can flow from one set of text to another in any page. CSS Styles are a more recent web tool so they only work on later browser versions. They are very similar to styles that you may have used in other programs such as Microsoft Word and Adobe InDesign.

A major advantage of styles in DreamWeaver is that you can ensure that text looks the same on all browsers, platforms and pages. You may have noticed that on some web pages the same text looks different in Internet Explorer than it does in Firefox. Styles can be used to overcome this problem.

Cascading Style Sheets

There are two main types of CSS styles:

Internal Custom Styles: which apply only to the page that they were created on.

External Custom Styles: which can apply to all linked pages in a site.

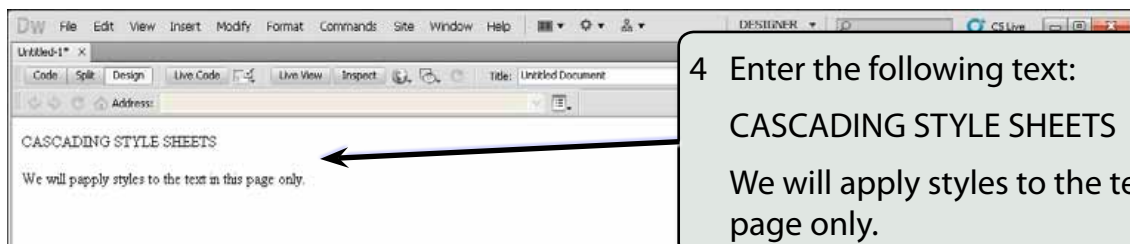
The difference between these two types of styles will be demonstrated in this chapter.

Internal Custom Styles

These are styles that you create from scratch and are only used in the page that they were created in. If you completed Module 1, you have already created Internal Custom Styles.

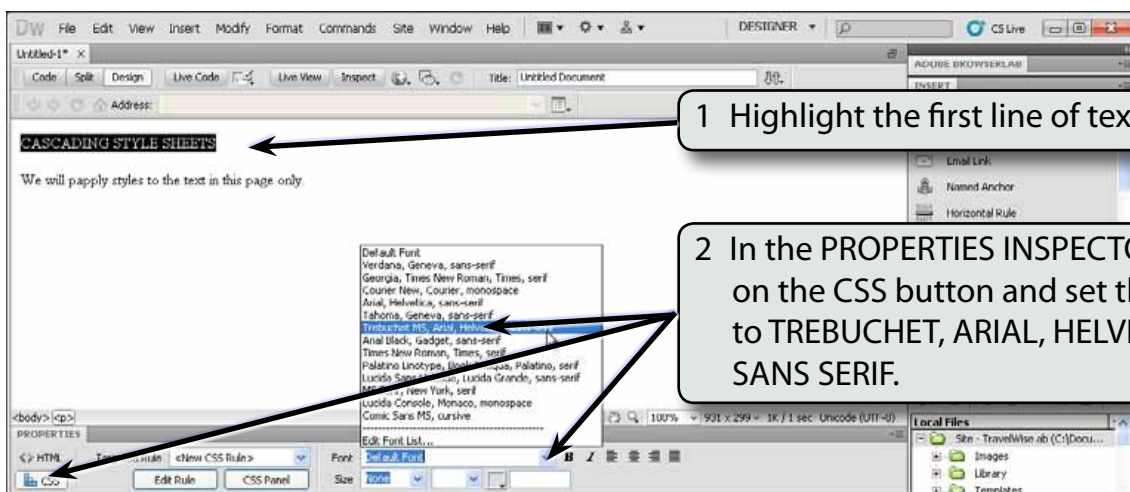
A Starting a Blank Page

- 1 Load DreamWeaver or close the current files and create a new HTML page.
- 2 If you are continuing from Module 1, set the FILES panel to your TRAVELWISE site and the screen to DESIGNER view.
- 3 If you did not do Module 1, set the FILES panel to a site you have created before or create a new site. The activities will work with any site, although it will be an advantage if the site includes a template.

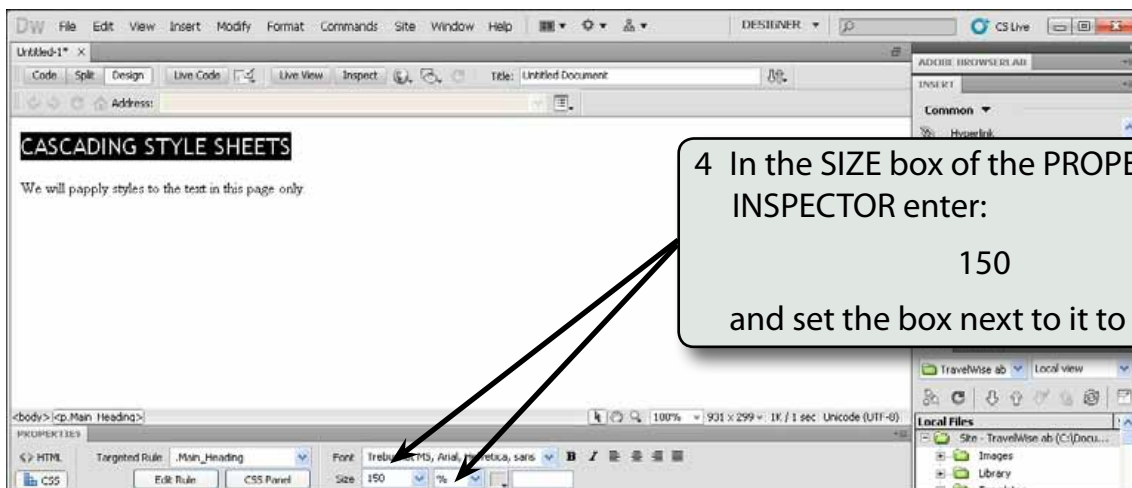


B Creating the Main Heading Style

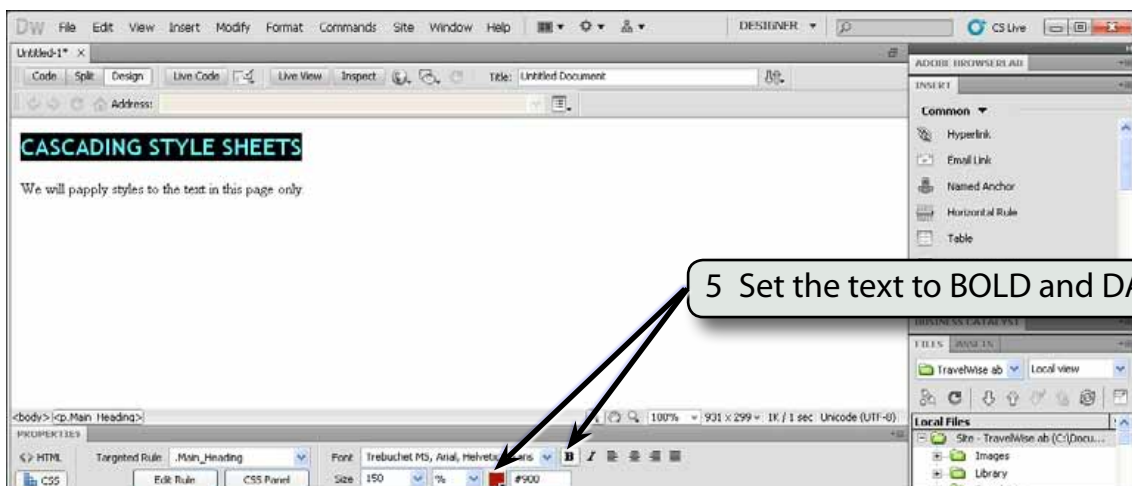
The first style will format the main heading.



NOTE: Style names must be one word. When you wish to use more than one word the _ character can be used to combine the words.



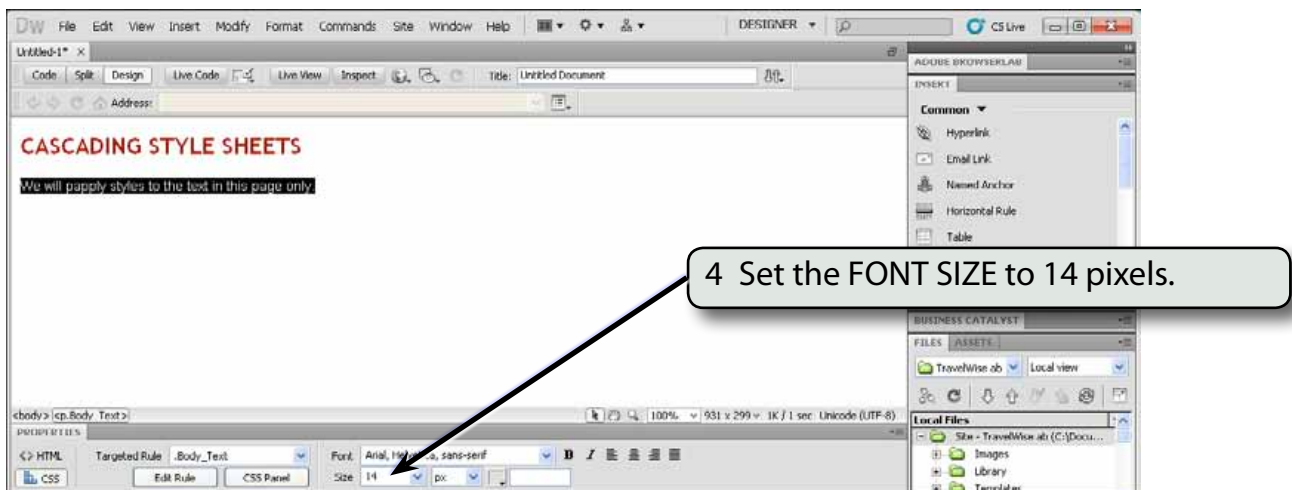
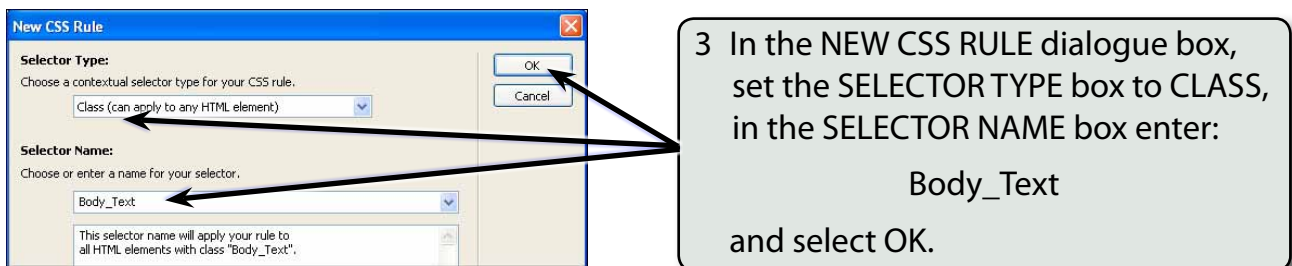
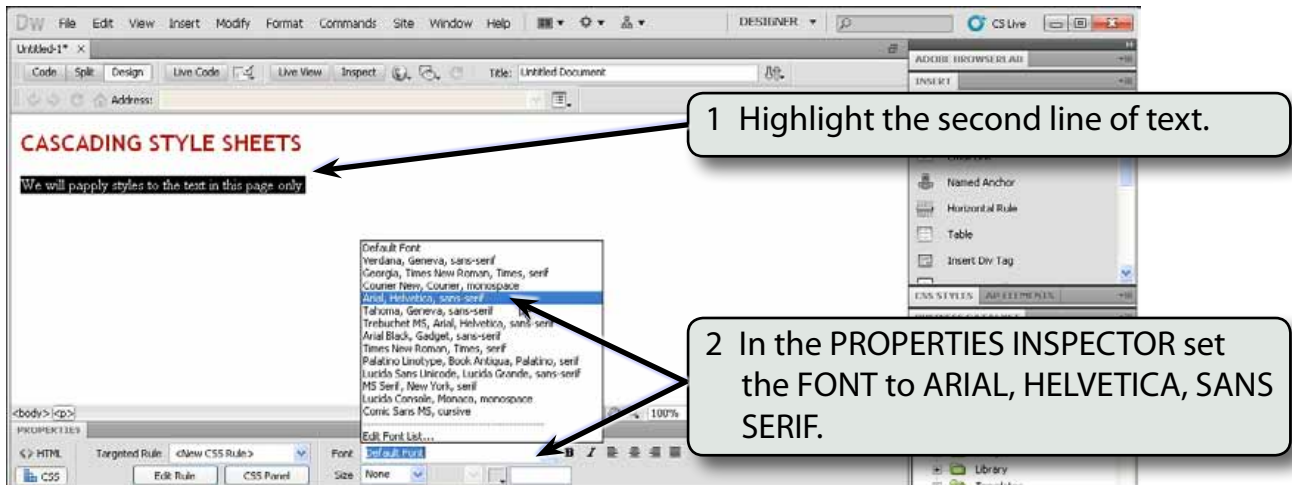
NOTE: By setting the FONT SIZE to a percentage the text will be resized to one and a half times whatever the default font size is.



NOTE: These changes have been stored in the MAIN_HEADING style.

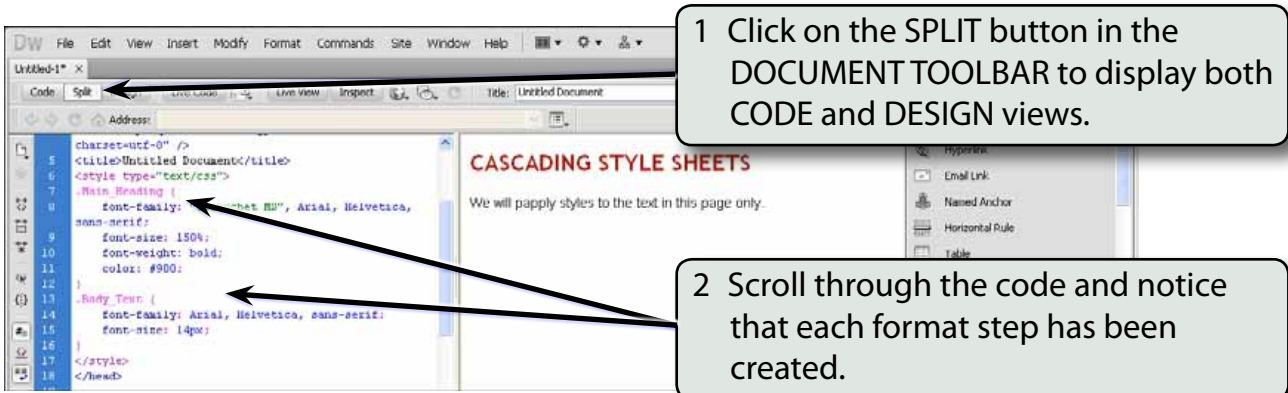
C Creating the Body Text Style

The paragraph text on the page can be given a different style.



D Looking at the Code

To understand some of the differences between internal and external styles it is advantageous to look at the way the HTML code is being created.

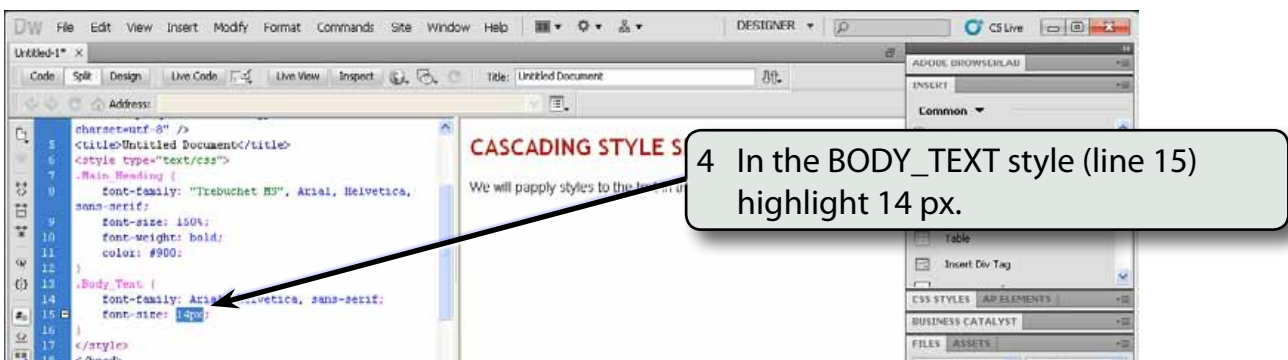


1 Click on the SPLIT button in the DOCUMENT TOOLBAR to display both CODE and DESIGN views.

2 Scroll through the code and notice that each format step has been created.

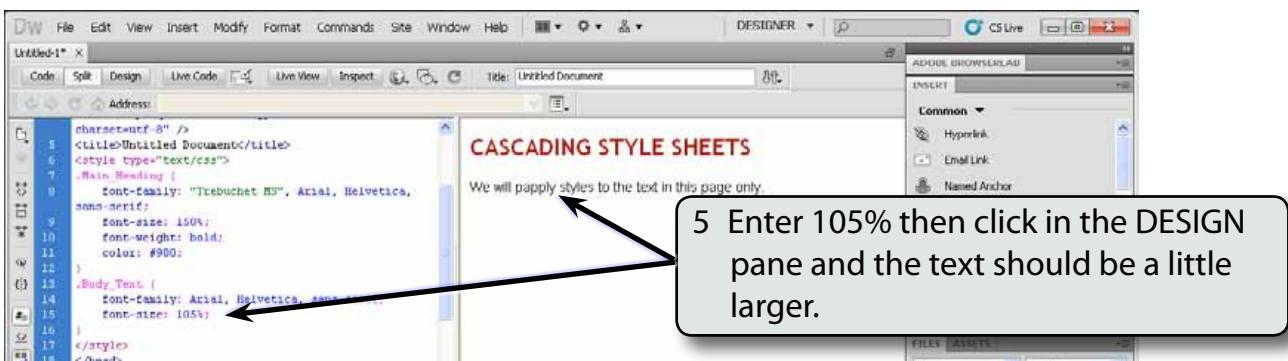
The screenshot shows the Dreamweaver interface with the 'Split' button in the document toolbar highlighted. The code view on the left shows CSS rules for '.Main_Heading' and '.Body_Text'. The design view on the right shows the rendered text 'CASCADING STYLE SHEETS' and 'We will papply styles to the text in this page only.'.

3 Styles can be altered in CODE view.



4 In the BODY_TEXT style (line 15) highlight 14 px.

The screenshot shows the code view with the line `font-size: 14px;` in the `.Body_Text` rule highlighted. The design view shows the rendered text.



5 Enter 105% then click in the DESIGN pane and the text should be a little larger.

The screenshot shows the code view with the line `font-size: 105%;` in the `.Body_Text` rule highlighted. The design view shows the rendered text.