

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.

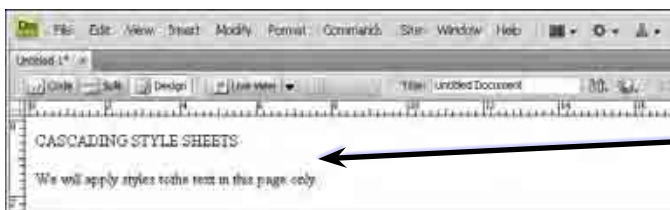
Internal Custom Styles

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 created Internal Custom Styles.

A Starting a Blank Page

- 1 Load DreamWeaver or close the current files and start a create a new HTML page.
- 2 Set the FILES panel to your TRAVELWISE site and the screen to DESIGNER view.

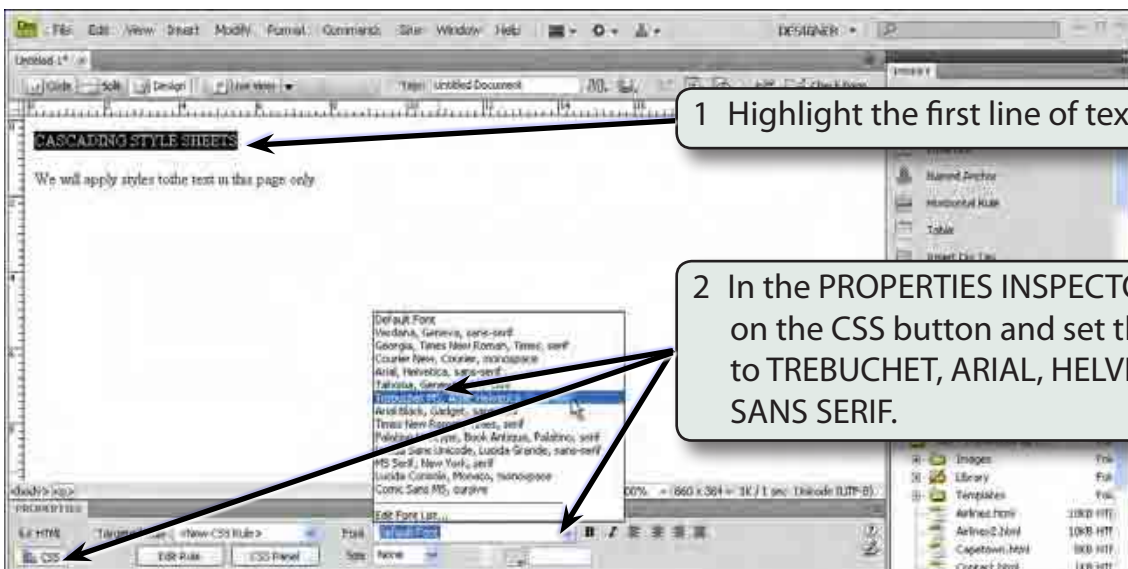
NOTE: If you didn't do Module 1, you can open a different site or create a new one. The activities will work with any site, although it will be an advantage if the site includes a template.



3 Enter the following text:
CASCADING STYLE SHEETS <enter>
We will apply styles to the text in this page only.

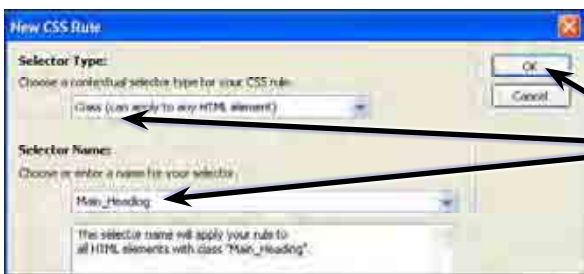
B Creating the Main Heading Style

The first style will format the main heading.



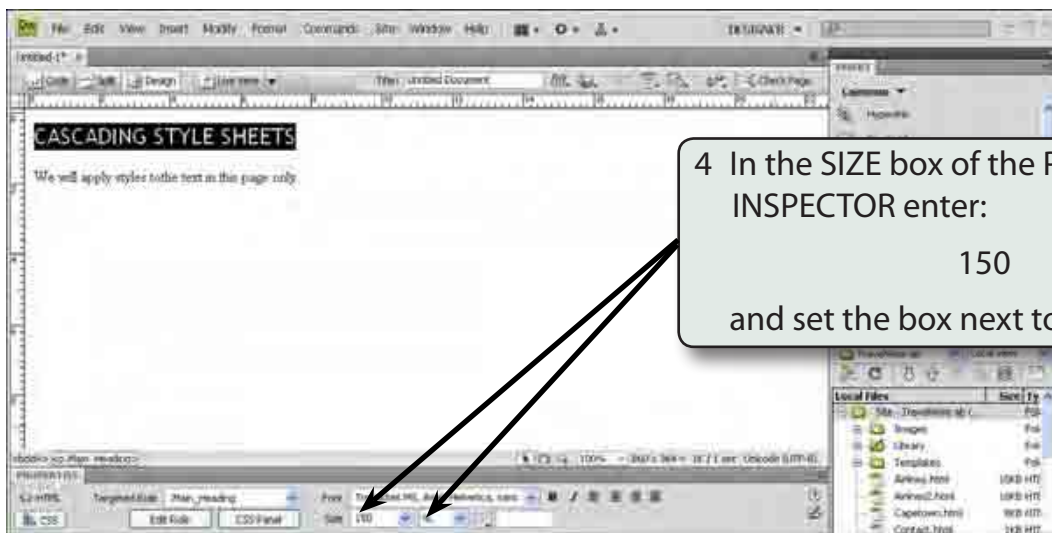
1 Highlight the first line of text.

2 In the PROPERTIES INSPECTOR, turn on the CSS button and set the FONT to TREBUCHET, ARIAL, HELVETICA, SANS SERIF.

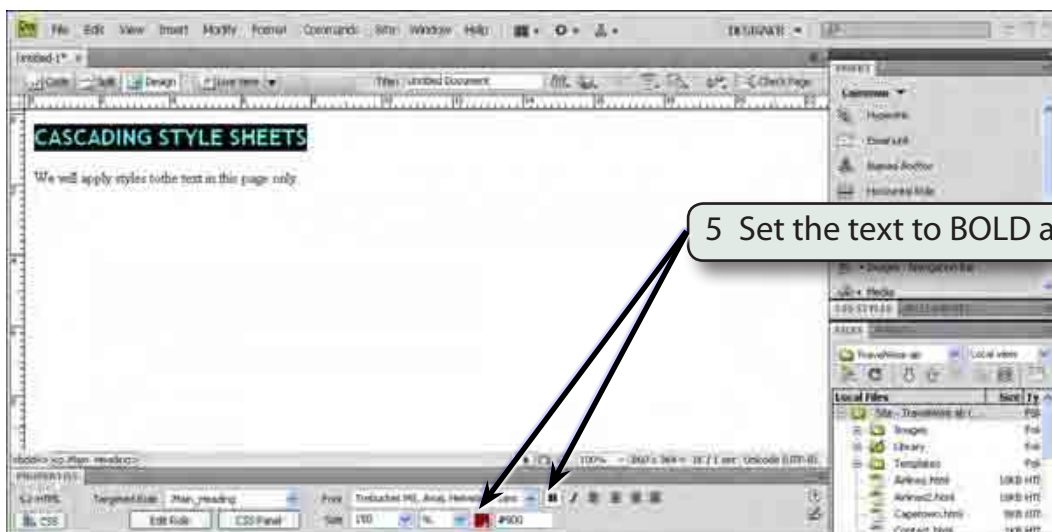


3 In the NEW CSS RULE dialogue box, set the SELECTOR TYPE box to CLASS, in the SELECTOR NAME box enter:
Main_Heading
and select OK.

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.



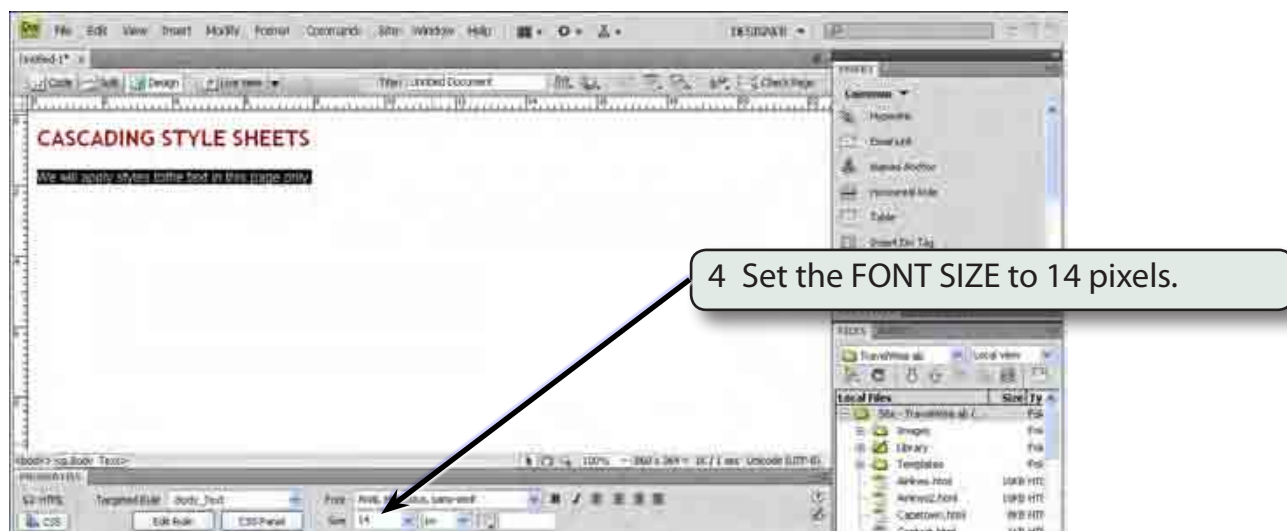
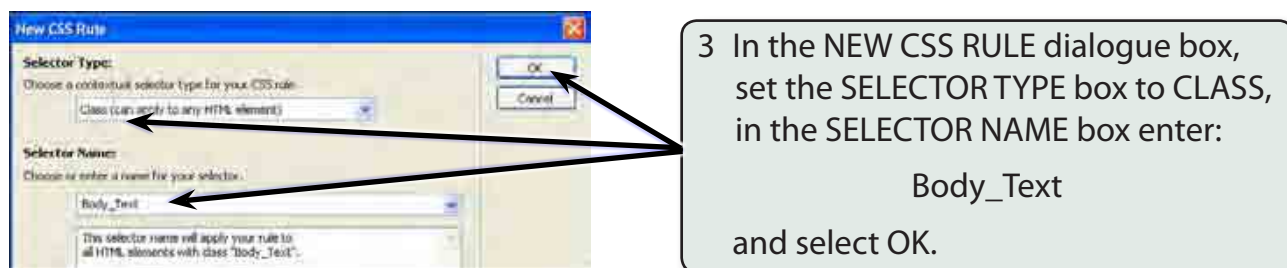
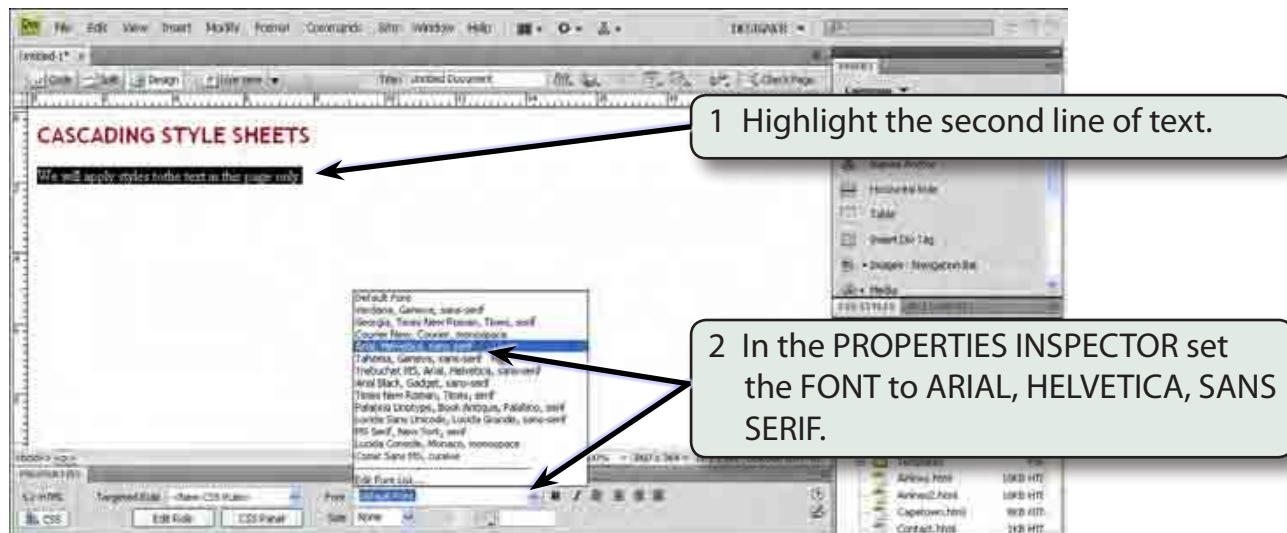
NOTE: By setting the FONT SIZE to a percentage the text will be resized to one and a half times whatever the default font size is.



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.

```

Main_Heading {
  font-family: "Trebuchet MS", Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif;
  font-size: 180%;
  font-weight: bold;
  color: #000;
}

Body_Text {
  font-family: Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif;
  font-size: 14px;
}

```

3 Styles can be altered in CODE view.

4 In the BODY_TEXT style (line 16) highlight 14 px.

```

Main_Heading {
  font-family: "Trebuchet MS", Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif;
  font-size: 180%;
  font-weight: bold;
  color: #000;
}

Body_Text {
  font-family: Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif;
  font-size: 14px;
}

```

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

```

Main_Heading {
  font-family: "Trebuchet MS", Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif;
  font-size: 180%;
  font-weight: bold;
  color: #000;
}

Body_Text {
  font-family: Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif;
  font-size: 105%;
}

```