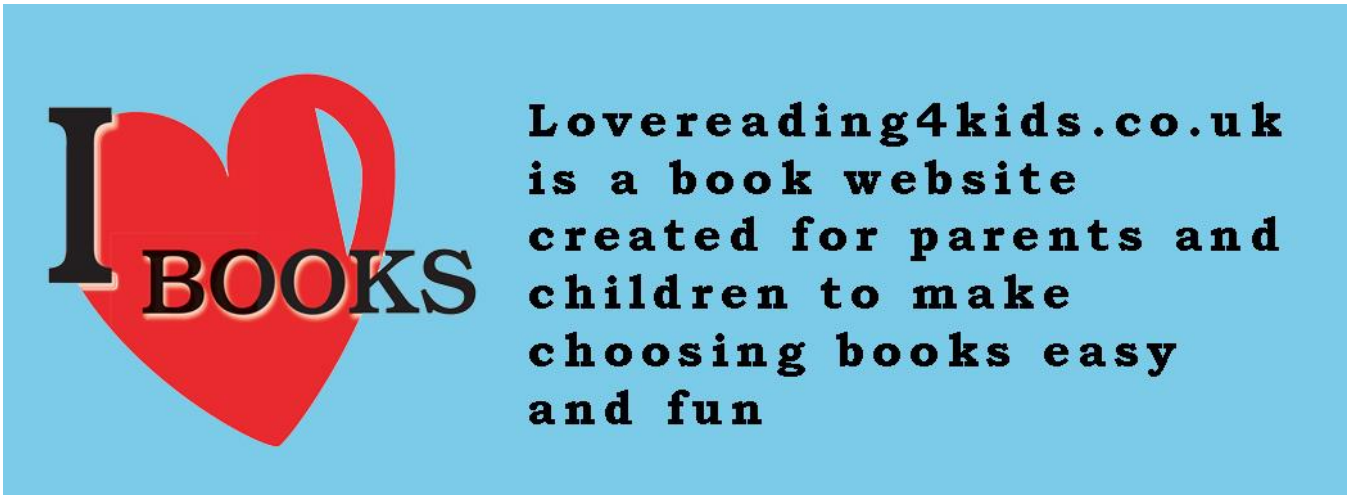

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CODING WITH CSS

So far in this mission you've been coding using HTML. As you've just seen, `<divs>` are used to group together HTML elements so you can easily change them. To change the look and position of your HTML elements, you have to use CSS.

CSS is a programming language often used with HTML. It is used by programmers to change the way HTML elements look when they're displayed in your browser. CSS is short for Cascading Style Sheets and is sometimes called "style sheets" or "styles". You can use CSS to change the design of your page by adding colours or changing the sizes of HTML elements. You can also use it to change where things are positioned. In fact, there are thousands of different things you can do with CSS to change the look and feel of your page.

The style attribute

To use CSS to change an HTML element you can add a style attribute to your opening HTML tag. You can use the style attribute with any HTML tag. The style attribute works in exactly the same way as the src and alt attributes we used earlier in the mission. Let's have a look at how we add a style attribute:

```
<p style="CSS-property: value;">The Monk Diamond had been hidden in a cave.</p>
```

Style attribute

CSS

Just like we saw earlier, the value of our style attribute is set using the equals sign (=) and enclosed in double quotes (" "). We apply CSS to our HTML tag by setting the value of our style attribute to CSS. CSS is a very simple programming language to write. It's always split into two parts: a property and a value.

CSS properties and values

When you write CSS you always have to use both a property and a value. The property tells your browser what part of the HTML element you want to change. The value tells your browser exactly what to change it to. So it works like this:

CSS	What does it mean?	Example
Property	The thing you want to change	background-color; height
Value	What you want to change it to	red, 200px

When you use CSS you divide the property from the value by inserting a colon (:). At the end of the value, you use a semi-colon (;). If the CSS is more than one word, you separate the two words using a hyphen (-). If you don't use the right **syntax**, your browser won't be able to decode your instructions. Your style attribute should always be written like this:

```
style="CSS-property: value;"
```

Hyphen

Colon

Semi-colon

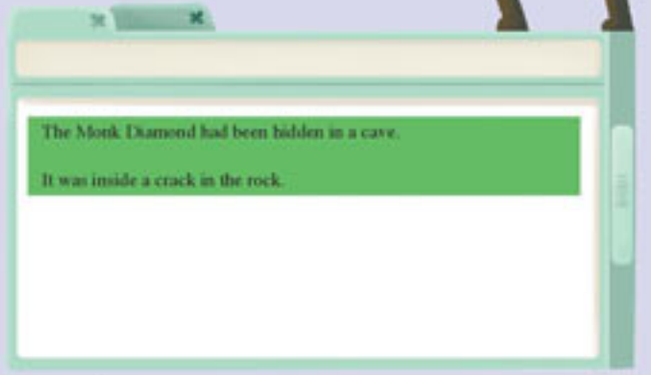


Your browser has hundreds of different built-in CSS properties and values which you can use in your HTML tags to change your page.

Let's take a closer look at how we can use CSS with `<divs>`. If we want to change the background colour of a section of our page, we can use CSS and HTML like this:

```
<body>
  <div style="background-color: green;">
    <p>The Monk Diamond had been hidden in a cave.</p>
    <p>It was inside a crack in the rock.</p>
  </div>
</body>
```





Did you notice?

All words in CSS are spelt using American English. If you don't use American English, your browser won't understand your CSS. For example, every time you write the word "colour", you must use the American spelling, which is "color".





Prof Bairstone's Fact File

THE MONK DIAMOND

- The Monk Diamond is the rarest and most precious diamond in Europe, famous for its distinctive green colour.
- It was discovered in 1880. It was bought by a count, but during the Russian Revolution it was stolen from his palace by a member of his household. The Monk Diamond's fate remained unknown for the next 30 years, until it was discovered during a raid on a gang of petty criminals.
- The count's son decided the diamond was unlucky and sold it to Moscow's oldest jewellery house. The House of Volkov paid an undisclosed sum for the jewel, but it was rumoured to be the most expensive diamond sale ever.

- The Monk Diamond was proudly on display in the House of Volkov's private collection until three years ago, when it was stolen in an audacious raid.
- Despite a long investigation and the promise of a huge reward, the police were unable to track down the culprits. They are widely believed to be the international gang of jewel thieves the Bond Brothers.
- My theory is that the Monk Diamond was smuggled out of Moscow and hidden in Siberia by the thieves. I think they are biding their time until they can sell the diamond on the black market without attracting suspicion. I just hope the cave isn't being watched by the gang!