

Things to know about the :nth-child() selector in CSS

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Like all CSS selectors, you can use :nth-child() to identify elements in a web page and apply different styles to them. But this selector allows you to narrow down a group of factors based on their relative position.

This selector supports some basic keywords for common cases. Additionally, it also provides powerful pattern matching syntax. Using it, you can select components based on regular patterns, repetitions, or complex definitions according to your needs.

:nth-child() selector syntax

Although it is a CSS pseudo-class selector, the :nth-child() syntax is different from other selectors. It takes a template argument to combine elements in a child element group:

```
:nth-child(args) { /*.*/* }
```

The main focus is on the arguments in parentheses. These arguments specify the subset of elements to select.

Use keyword values ??for common cases

This selector can contain two keyword values: **odd** and **even** . They are especially useful for styling alternate table rows.

A simple ordered list is another good example of when you can use these keyword values:

1. Item 1
2. Item 2
3. Item 3
4. Item 4
5. Item 5
6. Item 6
7. Item 7

Using the `:nth-child(odd)` selector , you can change the color of each replacement item:

```
:nth-child(odd) { color: red; }
```

Items start at index 1, so the first item will appear in red, then the third. so on and so forth:



More flexibility using function notation

You can use a single integer to select a single element, like this:

```
li:nth-child(4) { color: red; }
```

In this case, the selector combines only the 4th item in the list:



This syntax is a special case of the more general functional syntax that selects items that match a certain pattern. This syntax is:

```
:nth-child(A $n$ +B) { /*.*/* }
```

In this notation, **A** is the step size. This means the number of times the selector moves to select the next item. It allows you to select every other item, every third item, etc. **B** is the starting point of selection.

For example, take the argument **3 n +1** :

```
li:nth-child(3 $n$ +1) { color: red; }
```

This will start the selection at the first item and continue with every third item after that:



Compare it with the expression 3 n +2:

```
li:nth-child(3 $n$ +2) { color:red; }
```

This action still selects every third item, but now it starts from the second item in the list:



Another interesting example is `:nth-child(n+3)`:

```
li:nth-child(n+3) { color: red; }
```

This code will select each item (n), starting from the third (+3). It will look like this.



You can also use subtraction to achieve certain results:

```
li:nth-child(3n-1) { color: red; }
```

This example still selects every third item, but it starts from the 'first minus sign'. In practice, this means it will pick the second item in the list, then the fifth, etc.:



Syntax of

You can also use the of keyword **followed** by a **selector** as an argument in the `:nth-child()` selector. This syntax allows you to narrow down the possible items that the regular pattern selects from.

For example, imagine your markup is more complex than the original:

1. Item 1
2. Item 2
3. Item 3
4. Item 4
5. Item 5
6. Item 6
7. Item 7

Now, use `:nth-child`

Now, use `:nth-child` to select even items from the set of items with a specific class:

```
.new { font-weight: bold; } li:nth-child(even of .new) { color: red; }
```

Note that only even-numbered bold items are red:



Also consider the difference with `li.new:nth-child(even)` which targets `.new` elements, but only if they are even. These would be items 2 and 6 in the example above.

Above are the things you need to know about using the `:nth-child()` selector in CSS. Hope the article is useful to you.

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