

## Using CSS at the Text Level – The `<span>` tag

Up until now we have relied on XHTML container tags to apply a style to pieces of code. What do you do however, if you want it to apply only to a single character, word, or phrase? It may sound impossible knowing what you know right now, but if we combine the `<span>` with the **CSS Class Selector**, we can control the style of individual items.

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### How Is It Used?

To use the span tag you must remember proper nesting. The span tag is used just like a as a text-level tag, and can not go around block-level elements. In other words, you can't put the `<span>` tag around paragraphs (that's what a `<div>` tag is for).

```
<head>
  <title> Ted's Hardware Store - Contact Us </title>

  <meta http-equiv="content-type" content="text/html;
  charset=iso-8859-1"/>

  <style type="text/css">
  <!--

  . turnpink {
    background-color:pink;
    border-style:ridge;
    border-color:blue;
    color:blue;
    width:100px;
    padding:3px;
  }

  -->
</style>

</head>
```

Now that the class selector has been named in the head section, it is time to make a call to the class selector in the body section.

```
<body>  
  
<p> The code used will apply only to this <span class="turnpink"> piece of  
  text</span> </p>  
  
</body>
```

As you can see the code applies only to the text that is surrounded by the <span> tag.

The code used will apply only to this piece of text