

# Select Identity

Similar to a class selector, an identity selector can select HTML elements that contain an **id** attribute that has been assigned a value matching the selector. The identity selector begins with a **#** hash character followed by the **id** value to match. This is mostly useful to apply the style rule to one specific element, as each **id** attribute value must be unique within the HTML document.

Optionally, an identity selector can be combined with a type selector simply to identify the element type. In this case, the selector first specifies the element type, followed by a hash character and the **id** value to match:

- 1 Create an HTML document containing a paragraph and two spanned phrases – which all have a unique **id** value  

```
<p id="para1">You may only be someone  
<span id="span1">in the world</span><br>  
but to someone else you may  
<span id="span2">be the world</span></p>
```
- 2 Add a style sheet with style rules painting colored backgrounds behind the text in each **span** element  

```
<style>  
#span1 { color : White ; background : Red ; }  
#span2 { color : White ; background : Green ; }  
</style>
```
- 3 Now, add a style rule to paint a colored background behind the rest of the paragraph and to set its width  

```
p#para1 { background : Yellow ; width : 70% ; }
```
- 4 Save the HTML document then open the web page in a browser to see elements styled by the identity selectors



identity.html



If a class selector and an identity selector both attempt to style the same property of one element, the identity selector value would be applied as it has greater importance. See page 22 for more on how selectors rate importance.

