Coding HTML with NVDA -Part 18(CSS Outlines)

# Introduction

Hey guys what’s up it’s your girl Thee Quinn here and I’m back with another video in the html series. In today’s video I will be showing you how to add outlines to your elements in CSS. But before we get into it, please be sure to like the video if you love the content, subscribe if you are new and turn on my notification bell to be alerted whenever I post the next video. Also note that the instrumentals for this video have been provided by Inner Sanctum Entertainment Ltd. But without further ado, let’s get right into it.

# Start of tutorial

In CSS, an outline is a line drawn outside the element's border to make it stand out. Remember in that video with the CSS box model, I explained how the whole box model of an element is set up. Outlines are mainly used to indicate when an element is currently active or focused. This is commonly used on elements such as buttons, links, form fields, etc. The outline looks very similar to the border, but here is how it is different:

* Outlines do not take up space.

This is because they are always placed on top of the element’s box.

This may cause them to overlap other elements on the page.

* Unlike borders, an outline is the same on all sides.

That means outlines won't allow us to set different widths, colors and styles for each side.

* Outlines do not have any impact on surrounding elements apart from overlapping.

This means that outlines do not increase the space between elements.

* Unlike borders, outlines do not change the size or position of the element.
* Outlines may be non-rectangular, but you cannot create circular outlines.

If you put an outline on an element, it will take up the same amount of space just as if it didn't have an outline. This is because it overlaps the element’s margin and any surrounding elements. CSS allows us to set the style, colour, width, and offset of outlines. Let’s start with the style

# Style

The outline-style property specifies the style of the outline. It can have one of the following values:

* dotted

This Defines a dotted outline

* dashed

This Defines a dashed outline

* solid

this Defines a solid outline

* double

this Defines a double outline

* groove

this Defines a 3D grooved outline

* ridge

this Defines a 3D ridged outline

* inset

this Defines a 3D inset outline

* outset

this defines a 3D outset outline

* none

this Defines no outline

* hidden

this Defines a hidden outline

for example, let’s set the outline for an element to dotted:

p {

  border: 5px solid black;

  outline-style: dotted;

}

Note that none of the other outline properties will have ANY effect unless the outline-style property is set. It’s just like I said in an earlier video. If you are baking a cake, you first have to decide what cake you want to bake, before you can determine the size and the colour and stuff like that. Now let’s move on to the outline width.

# Width

The outline-width property specifies the width of the outline. It can have one of the following values:

* thin

This is typically about 1px

* medium

This is typically 3px

* thick

This is about 5px

* A specific size (in length units such as px, pt, cm, em, etc)

You can view my video on length units to learn more about those.

Here is an example:

p {

 border: 5px solid black;

 outline-style: dotted;

 outline-width: thin;

}

Now let’s move on to the colour of the outline.

# Colour

The outline-color property is used to set the color of the outline. The color can be set by:

* A predefined colour name
* A HEX code
* An RGB code
* An HSL code
* invert

This performs a color inversion which ensures that the outline is visible, regardless of color background

Now for the values such as the predefined colours, the hex, the RGB, and the HSL codes, you can check out my video on CSS colours to get more information about using them.

Now here is an example:

p {

 border: 5px solid black;

 outline-style: dotted;

 outline-color: blue;

 outline-width: thin;

}

Now let’s move on to the shorthand property.

# Shorthand

We can also specify all these outline properties in one shortcut property. This is the outline property and can contain these 3 properties:

* outline-width
* outline-style (required)
* outline-color

It can have 1, 2 or 3 of these values and they do not have to be in any specific order.

Here is an example:

p {

 outline: 5px solid red;

}

So, you realize that there are spaces in between each value. So, this outline would be red, solid, and 5 pixels. Now let’s move on to offset.

# Offset

The outline-offset property adds space between the outline and the border of an element. The space between an element and its outline is transparent. Now this distance can be defined using CSS length units. And by default, it is set to 0.

This example specifies an outline 15px outside the border’s edge:

p {

 margin: 30px;

 border: 1px solid black;

 outline: 1px solid red;

 outline-offset: 15px;

}