

CSS

CSS FUNDAMENTALS

SELECTORS

Pseudo-element



IN A ROCKET

Learn front-end development at rocket speed

“**Pseudo-elements** create abstractions about the document tree beyond those specified by the document language. They may also provide authors a way to refer to content that does not exist in the source document.”



SOURCE: Selectors Level 3 by W3C.

Pseudo-elements

::first-letter

::first-line

::before

::after

Pseudo-elements

::first-letter

::first-line

::before

::after

PSEUDO-ELEMENTS / FIRST-LETTER

Represents the first letter of an element, if it is not preceded by any other content on its line.

Syntax `selector::first-letter {style properties}`

`p::first-letter {color: green}`

With this code the first letter of all paragraphs is shown in green.

HTML

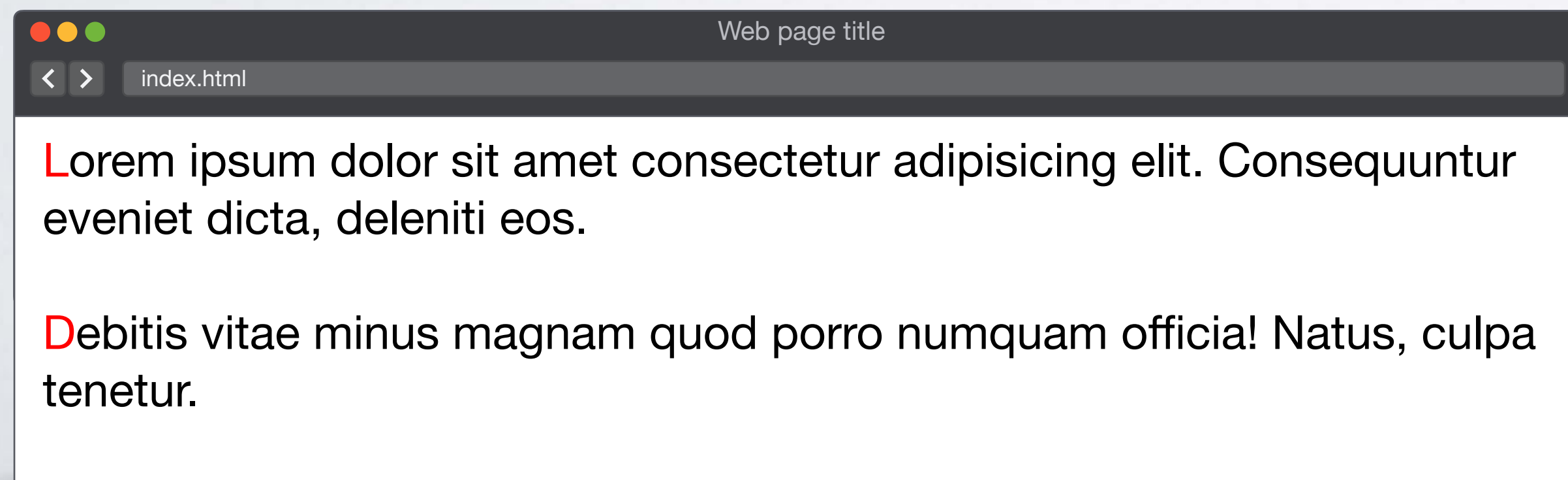
```
<body>  
<p>Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet consectetur  
adipisicing elit. Consequuntur eveniet dicta,  
deleniti eos.</p>
```

```
<p>Debitis vitae minus magnam quod porro  
numquam officia! Natus, culpa tenetur.</p>  
</body>
```

CSS

```
p::first-letter { color: red; }
```

Browser



Pseudo-elements

::first-letter

::first-line

::before

::after

PSEUDO-ELEMENTS / FIRST-LINE

Describes the contents of the first formatted line of an element.

Syntax `selector::first-line {style properties}`

`p::first-line {color: green}`

With this code the first line of all paragraphs is shown in green.

HTML

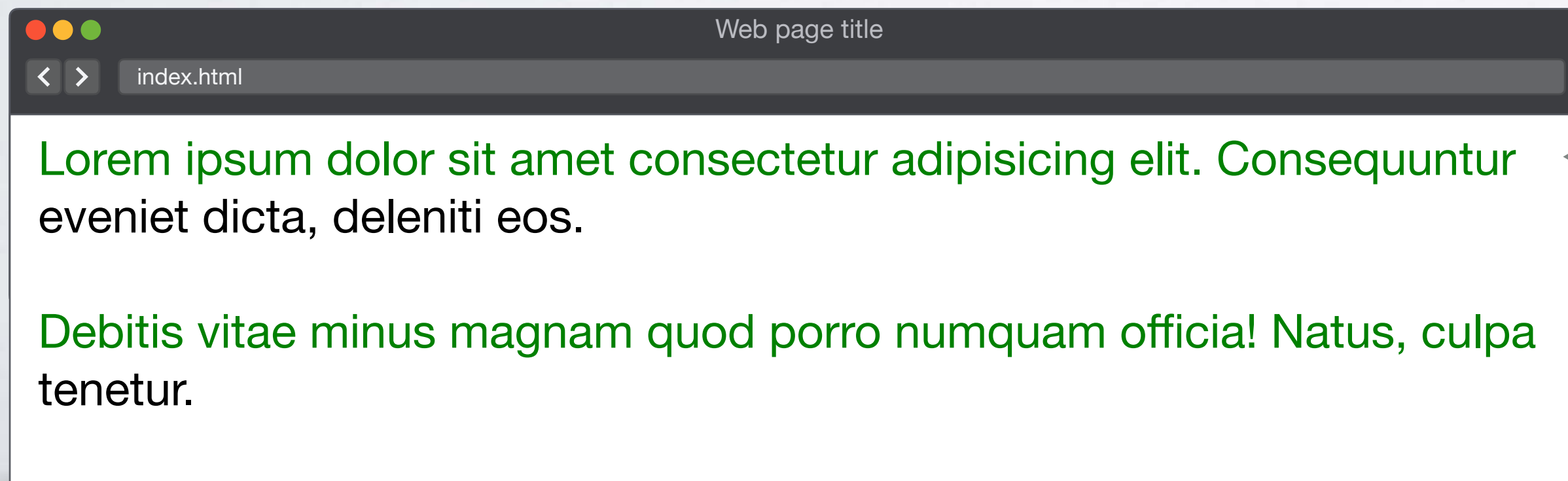
```
<body>  
<p>Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet consectetur  
adipisicing elit. Consequuntur eveniet dicta,  
deleniti eos.</p>
```

```
<p>Debitis vitae minus magnam quod porro  
numquam officia! Natus, culpa tenetur.</p>  
</body>
```

CSS

```
p::first-line { color: green; }
```

Browser



Updated by the browser checking viewport's width

Pseudo-elements

::first-letter

::first-line

::before

::after

PSEUDO-ELEMENTS / BEFORE

Describes generated content before an element's content.

Syntax `selector::before {style properties}`

`p::before {content: "★"}`

With this code all paragraphs are preceded by "★".

HTML

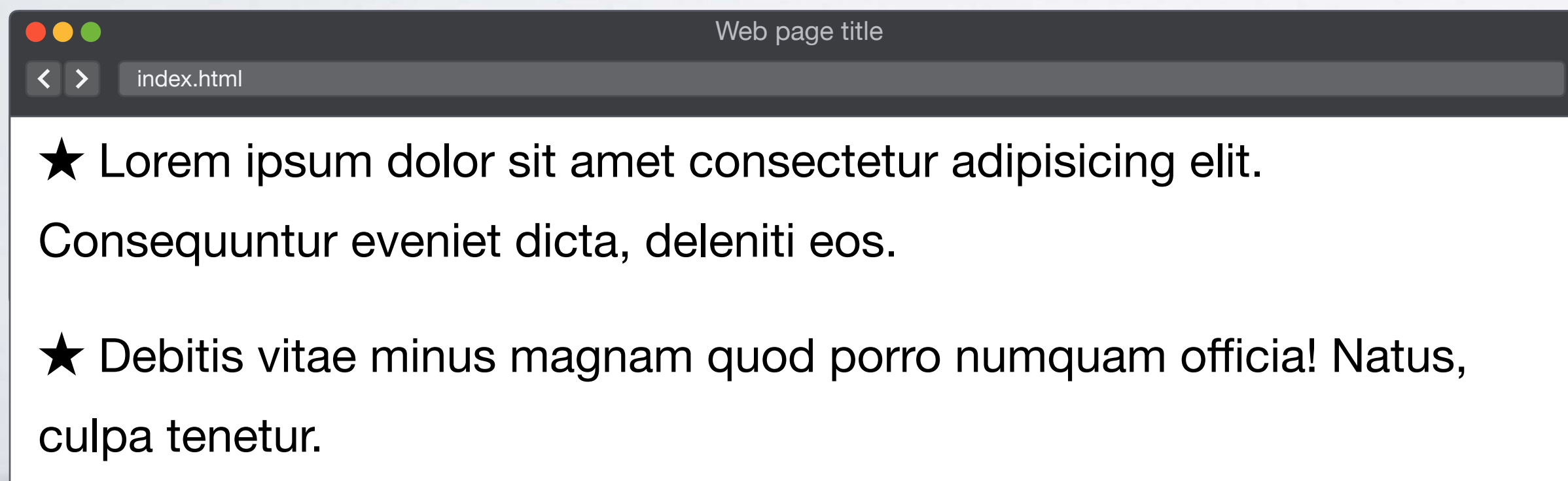
```
<body>  
<p>Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet consectetur  
adipisicing elit. Consequuntur eveniet dicta,  
deleniti eos.</p>
```

```
<p>Debitis vitae minus magnam quod porro  
numquam officia! Natus, culpa tenetur.</p>  
</body>
```

CSS

```
p::before { content: "★"; }
```

Browser



PSEUDO-ELEMENTS / BEFORE

HTML

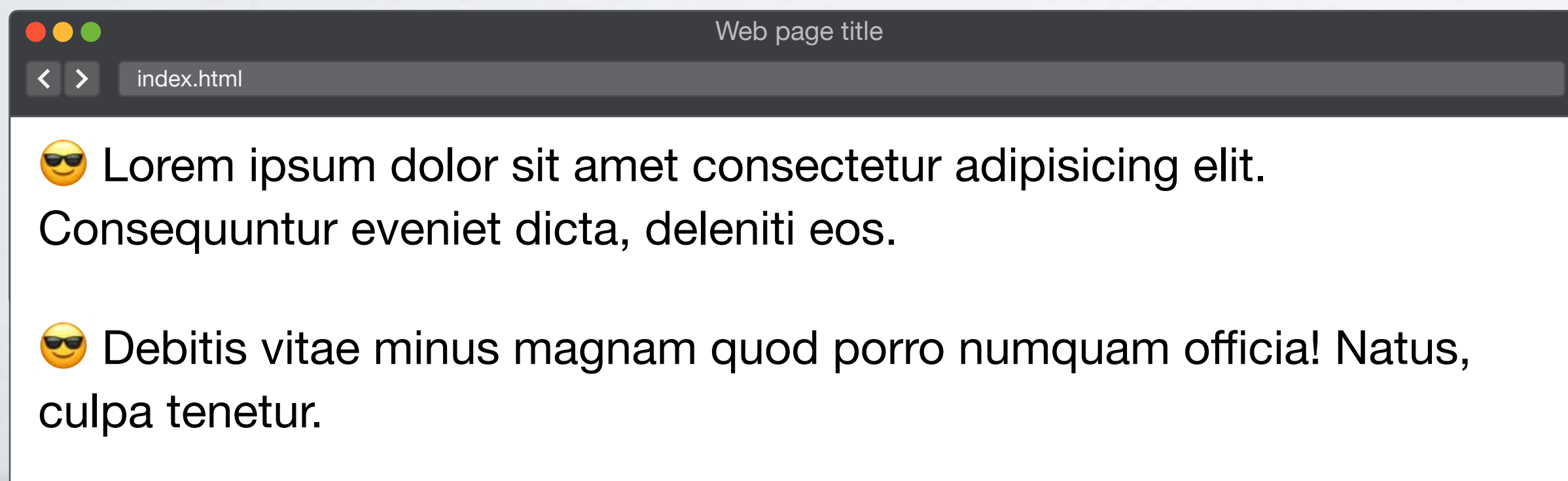
```
<body>  
<p>Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet consectetur  
adipisicing elit. Consequuntur eveniet dicta,  
deleniti eos.</p>
```

```
<p>Debitis vitae minus magnam quod porro  
numquam officia! Natus, culpa tenetur.</p>  
</body>
```

CSS

```
p::before { content: "😎"; }
```

Browser



PSEUDO-ELEMENTS / BEFORE

HTML

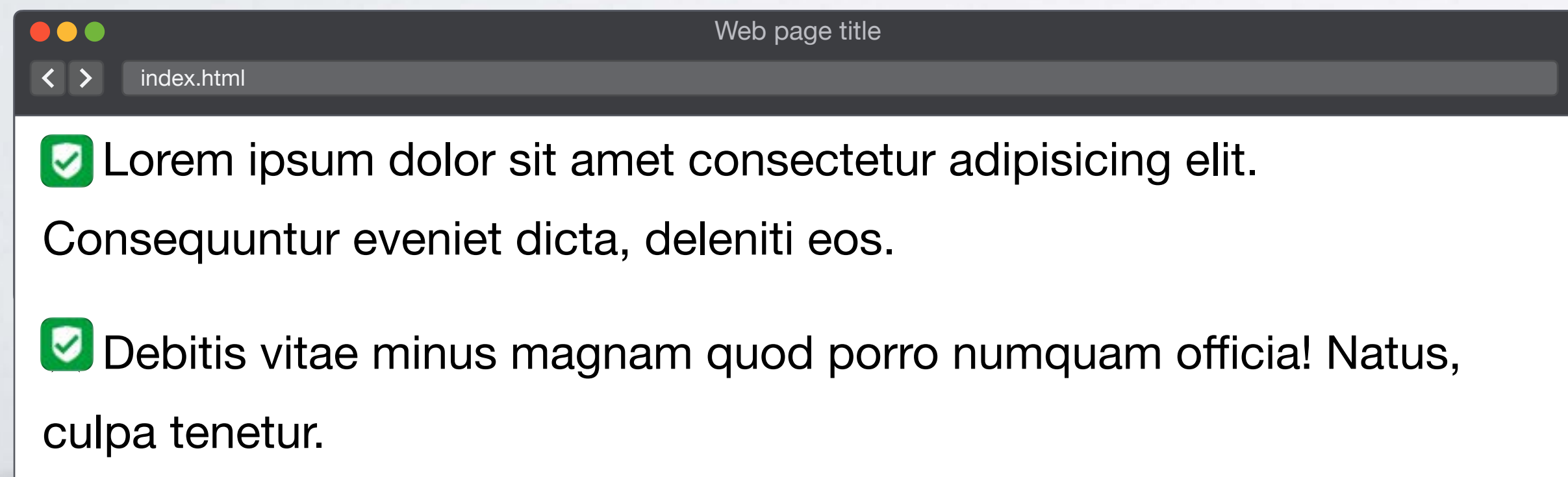
```
<body>  
<p>Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet consectetur  
adipisicing elit. Consequuntur eveniet dicta,  
deleniti eos.</p>
```

```
<p>Debitis vitae minus magnam quod porro  
numquam officia! Natus, culpa tenetur.</p>  
</body>
```

CSS

```
p::before { content: url(image.png); }
```

Browser



Pseudo-elements

::first-letter

::first-line

::before

::after

PSEUDO-ELEMENTS / AFTER

Describes generated content after an element's content.

Syntax `selector::after {style properties}`

`p::after {content: "✓"}`

With this code all paragraphs are finished with ✓.

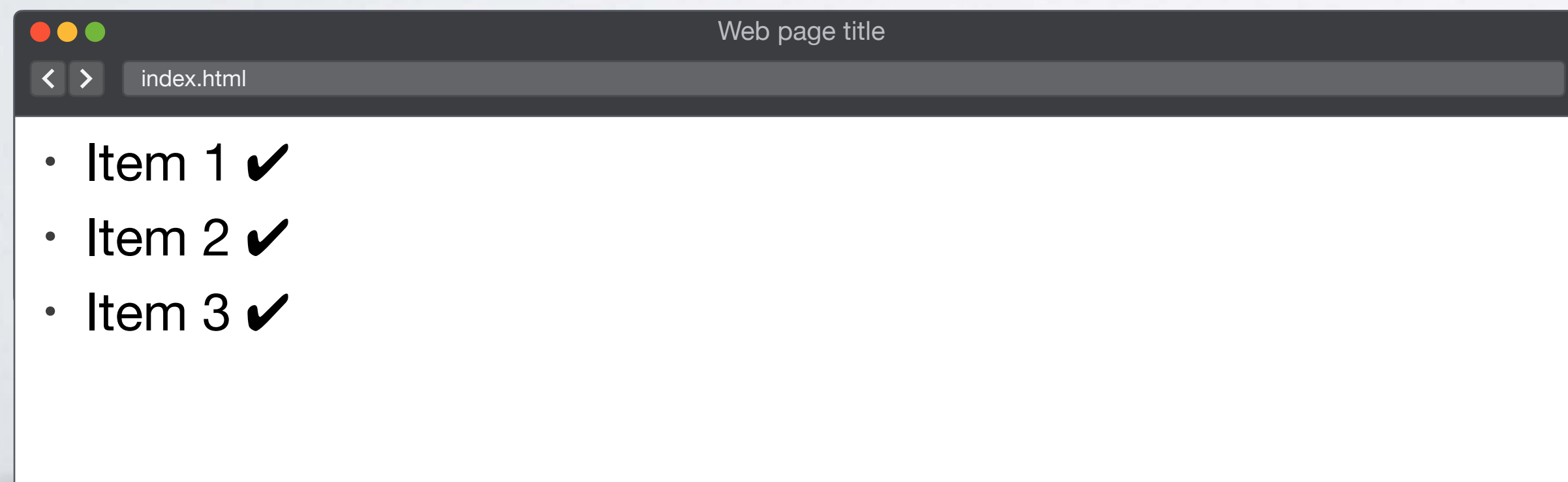
HTML

```
<body>
<ul>
  <li>Item 1</li>
  <li>Item 2</li>
  <li>Item 3</li>
</ul>
</body>
```

CSS

```
li::after { content: "✓"; }
```

Browser



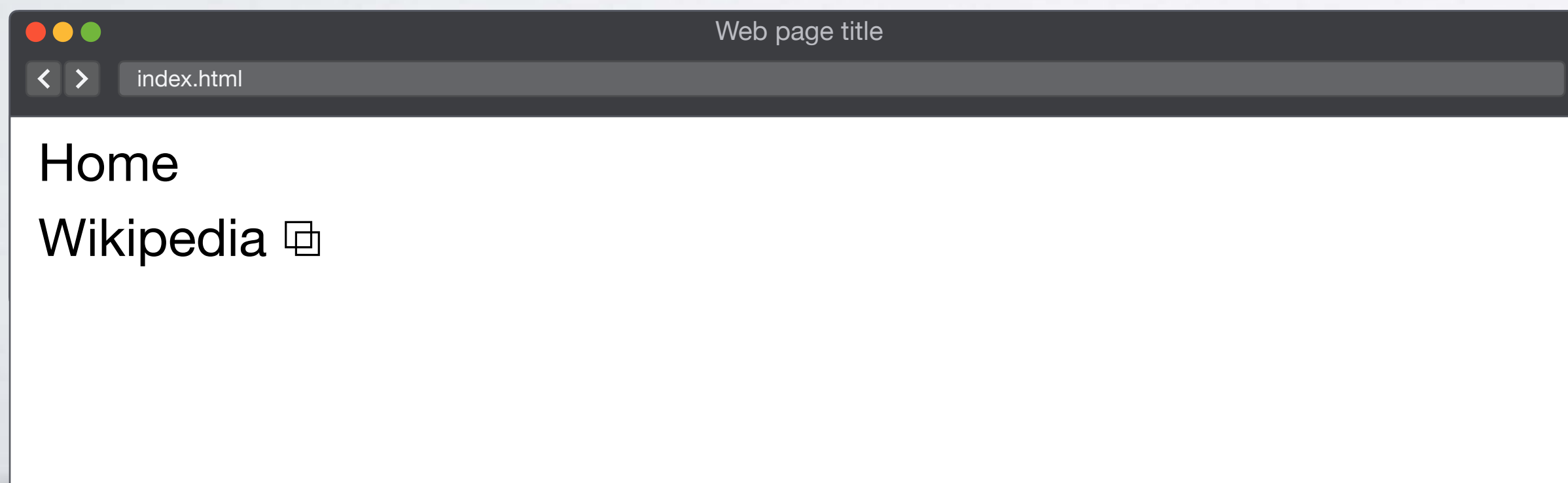
HTML

```
<body>
<a href="index.html">Home</a>
<br>
<a href="https://en.wikipedia.org" target="_blank">
Wikipedia
</a>
</body>
```

CSS

```
[target=_blank]::after {
  content: "🔗";
}
```

Browser



TOOLS: HTML SYMBOLS

HTML Symbols - Unicode symbols, entities and codes

Alchemical Symbols

Alphabet

Arrow Symbols

ASCII Symbols

Astrological symbols

Box Drawing

Braille Patterns

Computer Symbols

Coptic Symbols

Currency Symbols

Dingbats Symbols

Games Symbols

Geometric symbols

Greek Symbols

Heart Symbols

Letterlike Symbols

Math Symbols

Miscellaneous Symbols

Musical Symbols

Number Symbols

Ornamental symbols

Punctuation Symbols

Religious symbols

Roman symbols

Star Symbols

Unit Symbols

Arrows with hook

Symbol	HTML Code	HTML Entity	CSS Code	Hex Code	Unicode	Description
↩	↩	↩	\21A9	↩	U+021A9	leftwards arrow with hook
↪	↪	↪	\21AA	↪	U+021AA	rightwards arrow with hook
↖	⤣	⤣	\2923	⤣	U+02923	north west arrow with hook
↗	⤤	⤤	\2924	⤤	U+02924	north east arrow with hook
↘	⤥	⤥	\2925	⤥	U+02925	south east arrow with hook
↙	⤦	⤦	\2926	⤦	U+02926	south west arrow with hook
↩	⭛		\2B5B	⭛	U+02B5B	backslanted south arrow with hooked tail, sharp rise and fall in tone

Arrows with tails

Symbol	HTML Code	HTML Entity	CSS Code	Hex Code	Unicode	Description
↩	↢	↢	\21A2	↢	U+021A2	leftwards arrow with tail
↪	↣	↣	\21A3	↣	U+021A3	rightwards arrow with tail
↱	↥	↥	\21A5	↥	U+021A5	upwards arrow from bar
↲	↦	↦	\21A6	↦	U+021A6	rightwards arrow from bar
↴	↧	↧	\21A7	↧	U+021A7	downwards arrow from bar
↕	↨		\21A8	↨	U+021A8	up down arrow with base

Arrows with triangle arrowheads

Symbol	HTML Code	HTML Entity	CSS Code	Hex Code	Unicode	Description
↩	🠀		\1F800	🠀	U+1F800	leftwards arrow with small triangle arrowhead
↪	🠁		\1F801	🠁	U+1F801	upwards arrow with small triangle arrowhead
↫	🠂		\1F802	🠂	U+1F802	rightwards arrow with small triangle arrowhead
↬	🠃		\1F803	🠃	U+1F803	downwards arrow with small triangle arrowhead
↭	🠄		\1F804	🠄	U+1F804	leftwards arrow with medium triangle arrowhead
↮	🠅		\1F805	🠅	U+1F805	upwards arrow with medium triangle arrowhead

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TOOLS: HTML SYMBOLS

HTML Symbols - Unicode symbols, entities and codes

ListGridCompact

SearchPrintSettings

Alchemical Symbols		❎	\274E	❎	U+0274E	negative squared cross mark
Alphabet		⟤	\27E4	⟤	U+027E4	white square with leftwards tick
Arrow Symbols		⧆	\29C6	⧆	U+029C6	squared asterisk
ASCII Symbols		⧉ ⧉	\29C9	⧉	U+029C9	two joined squares
Astrological symbols		⬒	\2B12	⬒	U+02B12	square with top half black
Box Drawing		⬓	\2B13	⬓	U+02B13	square with bottom half black
Braille Patterns		⬔	\2B14	⬔	U+02B14	square with upper right diagonal half black
Computer Symbols		⬕	\2B15	⬕	U+02B15	square with lower left diagonal half black
Coptic Symbols		⬚	\2B1A	⬚	U+02B1A	dotted square
Currency Symbols		⬛	\2B1B	⬛	U+02B1B	black large square
Dingbats Symbols		⬜	\2B1C	⬜	U+02B1C	white large square
Games Symbols		⬝	\2B1D	⬝	U+02B1D	black very small square
Geometric symbols		⬞	\2B1E	⬞	U+02B1E	white very small square
Greek Symbols		⮺	\2BBA	⮺	U+02BBA	overlapping white squares, pair of bishops
Heart Symbols		⮻	\2BBB	⮻	U+02BBB	overlapping white and black squares, bishops of opposite colour
Letterlike Symbols		⮼	\2BBC	⮼	U+02BBC	overlapping black squares, bishops of the same colour
Math Symbols		⯀	\2BC0	⯀	U+02BC0	black square centred
Miscellaneous Symbols		㉈	\3248	㉈	U+03248	circled number ten on black square, speed limit 10 km/h
Musical Symbols		㉉	\3249	㉉	U+03249	circled number twenty on black square, speed limit 20 km/h
Number Symbols		㉊	\324A	㉊	U+0324A	circled number thirty on black square, speed limit 30 km/h
Ornamental symbols		㉋	\324B	㉋	U+0324B	circled number forty on black square, speed limit 40 km/h
Punctuation Symbols		㉌	\324C	㉌	U+0324C	circled number fifty on black square, speed limit 50 km/h
Religious symbols		㉍	\324D	㉍	U+0324D	circled number sixty on black square, speed limit 60 km/h
Roman symbols		㉎	\324E	㉎	U+0324E	circled number seventy on black square, speed limit 70 km/h
Star Symbols		㉏	\324F	㉏	U+0324F	circled number eighty on black square, speed limit 80 km/h
Unit Symbols		㋌	\32CC	㋌	U+032CC	square hg
		㋍	\32CD	㋍	U+032CD	square erg
		㋎	\32CE	㋎	U+032CE	square ev

Pseudo-elements

 `::first-letter` `::first-line` `::before` `::after`

W3C Recommendation

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Selectors Level 3

W3C Recommendation 06 November 2018



This version:
<https://www.w3.org/TR/2018/REC-selectors-3-20181106/>

Latest version:
<https://www.w3.org/TR/selectors-3/>

Previous version:
<https://www.w3.org/TR/2018/PR-selectors-3-20180911/>

Latest version of Selectors:
<https://www.w3.org/TR/selectors/>

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<https://drafts.csswg.org/selectors-3/>

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Abstract

Selectors are patterns that match against elements in a tree, and as such form one of several technologies that

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