

The Tailwind CSS Cheat Sheet

WebsiteSetup.org · Tailwind CSS v4 (v4.3.2), 2026

What is Tailwind CSS

Tailwind is a utility-first CSS framework. You style elements by composing small classes in your HTML, such as `p-4` for padding, `text-center` to center text, and `bg-blue-500` for a background. Version 4 (v4.3.2) is current and changed setup, so old v3 tutorials may not match.

Install and set up (v4)

Vite plugin (recommended):

```
npm install tailwindcss @tailwindcss/vite
// vite.config.js
import tailwindcss from '@tailwindcss/vite'
export default { plugins: [ tailwindcss() ] }
```

PostCSS:

```
npm install tailwindcss @tailwindcss/postcss postcss
// postcss.config.mjs
export default { plugins: { "@tailwindcss/postcss": {} } }
```

CSS entry (one line, replaces the old v3 three directives):

```
@import "tailwindcss";
```

Browser build (prototyping only; old `cdn.tailwindcss.com` is deprecated):

```
<script src="https://cdn.jsdelivr.net/npm/@tailwindcss/browser@4"></script>
```

Customize with CSS, no config file:

```
@theme { --color-brand: #1da1f2; }
/* auto-generates bg-brand, text-brand */
```

Production needs a build step (Vite or PostCSS). The browser build is prototyping only.

Layout

Want	Classes	Display	block inline-block flex grid hidden
Wrapper	container mx-auto	Position	relative absolute fixed sticky
		Stack	z-10

Flexbox

Want	Classes	Justify	justify-start justify-center justify-between justify-around
Container	flex flex-row flex-col flex-wrap	Align	items-start items-center items-stretch
		Gap	gap-4 gap-x-2

Grid

Want	Classes	Columns	grid-cols-3 grid-cols-12
Container	grid	Span/start	col-span-2 col-start-1
		Rows/gap	grid-rows-3 gap-4

Spacing

Each step is 0.25rem, so p-4 = 1rem.

Want	Classes
Padding	p-4px-6py-2pt-4

Margin	m-4mx-automt-2
Between	space-x-4space-y-2

Sizing

Want	Classes
Width	w-fullw-1/2w-64w-screen

Height	h-fullh-screen
Min/max	min-w-0max-w-lg
Both	size-10

Typography

Want	Classes
Size	text-sm...text-9xl
Weight	font-normalfont-mediumfont-semiboldfont-bold

Align	text-centertext-lefttext-right
Line/track	leading-tightleading-6tracking-wide
Color	text-gray-700text-blue-500

Backgrounds/gradients

v4 rename: bg-linear-to-r (v3 was bg-gradient-to-r).

Want	Classes
Solid	bg-whitebg-blue-500

Gradient	bg-linear-to-rbg-radialbg-conic
Stops	from-blue-500to-cyan-400

Borders/radius

Want	Classes
Border	borderborder-2border-tborder-gray-300

Radius	roundedrounded-lgrounded-full
Divide	divide-y

Effects

Want	Classes
Shadow	shadowshadow-mdshadow-lg

Opacity	opacity-50
Ring	ring-2
Blur	blur-sm

Colors and scale

22 hues (slate, gray, red, blue ...), shades 50, 100 ... 900, 950. Pattern: {utility}-{color}-{shade}.

Want	Classes
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Background	bg-blue-500
Text	text-gray-700

Responsive

Mobile-first min-width prefixes. Example: md:flex lg:grid-cols-4.

Prefix	Min width
sm:	640px

md:	768px
lg:	1024px
xl:2xl:	1280px · 1536px

State variants

Want	Classes
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Interaction	hover:focus:active:
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Form/all	<code>disabled: focus-visible:</code>
Parent/theme	<code>group-hover: dark:</code>

Position	<code>first: last: odd:</code>
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Transitions/transforms

Want	Classes	Scale/rotate	<code>scale-110 rotate-45</code>
Transition	<code>transition transition-all duration-300 ease-in-out</code>	Translate	<code>translate-x-2 -translate-y-1</code>
		Animate	<code>animate-spin</code>

Arbitrary values

Want	Classes	Color	<code>bg-[#1da1f2]</code>
Position	<code>top-[117px]</code>	Grid	<code>grid-cols-[1fr_500px]</code>
		Size	<code>text-[14px]</code>

v4 vs v3 gotchas

Change	Detail
Config	Moved from <code>tailwind.config.js</code> to <code>@theme</code> in CSS
Content detection	Automatic in v4, no <code>content: []</code> array
Conflicting utilities	<code>p-2 p-4</code> : order in the generated stylesheet wins, not the class attribute
Build step	Browser build is prototyping only; production needs Vite or PostCSS
Browser support	Modern only: Safari 16.4+, Chrome 111+, Firefox 128+
Force important	Use the <code>!</code> modifier: <code>!p-4</code>