

Changing a div with a class to a semantic tag seemingly breaks another element's CSS in dark mode [closed]

Asked 16 days ago Modified 15 days ago Viewed 112 times



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Closed. This question is [not reproducible or was caused by typos](#). It is not currently accepting answers.



This question was caused by a typo or a problem that can no longer be reproduced. While similar questions may be [on-topic](#) here, this one was resolved in a way less likely to help future readers.

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I wrote a site with Eleventy and want to use less `<div>` elements. Currently this is what the HTML and CSS for a page look like. [NOTE: You will need to toggle between browser dark and light modes to see the issue in the snippets using browser developer tools]:

CSS



```
:root {
  --accent-color: hsl(0 0% 50%);

  --color-percent-dark-offset: 25;
  --color-percent-light-offset: 40;

  --light-hsl-value: hsl(from var(--accent-color) h s calc(1 + var(--color-percent-light-offset)));
  --dark-hsl-value: hsl(from var(--accent-color) h s calc(1 - var(--color-percent-dark-offset)));
}

nav {
  background-color: var(--light-hsl-value);

  ul {
    display: flex;
    justify-content: space-around;
    list-style-type: none;
    margin-top: 0;
    margin-left: auto;
    margin-right: auto;
    padding: 0;
```

```
li {
  display: flex;

  a {
    padding: 10px;
  }

  a:link {
    text-decoration: none;
    color: var(--dark-hsl-value);
  }

  a:visited {
    color: var(--dark-hsl-value);
  }
}

.current-section {
  border-width: 0 0 4px 0;
  border-style: solid;
  border-color: var(--dark-hsl-value);
}
}

.header-bar {
  display: flex;
  justify-content: center;
  background-color: var(--light-hsl-value);
  margin: 0;

  h1 {
    text-align: center;
  }
}

@media (prefers-color-scheme: dark) {

  .header-bar,
  nav {
    background-color: var(--dark-hsl-value);

    h1 {
      color: var(--light-hsl-value);
    }

    a:link,
    a:visited {
      color: var(--light-hsl-value);
    }

    .current-section {
      border-color: var(--light-hsl-value);
    }
  }
}
```

html

 Copy

```
<div class="header-bar">
  <h1>Pasta's Corner</h1>
</div>
<nav>
  <ul>
    <li><a href="/">Home</a></li>
    <li class="current-section" aria-current="page"><a href="/blog/">Blog</a>
  </li>
  </ul>
</nav>
```

 Run code snippet

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The focus of the issue is in the `<nav>` tag, specifically when dark mode is activated.

Current light mode:



Current dark mode:



I want to change the `<div class=header-bar>` tag to a `<header>` tag. I do this by just replacing the tags accordingly and nothing else. This is the result I end up with.

CSS

 Copy

```
:root {
  --accent-color: hsl(0 0% 50%);

  --color-percent-dark-offset: 25;
  --color-percent-light-offset: 40;
```

```

    --light-hsl-value: hsl(from var(--accent-color) h s calc(1 + var(--color-
percent-light-offset)));
    --dark-hsl-value: hsl(from var(--accent-color) h s calc(1 - var(--color-
percent-dark-offset)));
}

nav {
    background-color: var(--light-hsl-value);

    ul {
        display: flex;
        justify-content: space-around;
        list-style-type: none;
        margin-top: 0;
        margin-left: auto;
        margin-right: auto;
        padding: 0;

        li {
            display: flex;

            a {
                padding: 10px;
            }

            a:link {
                text-decoration: none;
                color: var(--dark-hsl-value);
            }

            a:visited {
                color: var(--dark-hsl-value);
            }
        }

        .current-section {
            border-width: 0 0 4px 0;
            border-style: solid;
            border-color: var(--dark-hsl-value);
        }
    }
}

header {
    display: flex;
    justify-content: center;
    background-color: var(--light-hsl-value);
    margin: 0;

    h1 {
        text-align: center;
    }
}

@media (prefers-color-scheme: dark) {
    header,
    nav {
        background-color: var(--dark-hsl-value);
    }
}

```

```

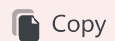
h1 {
  color: var(--light-hsl-value);
}

a:link,
a:visited {
  color: var(--light-hsl-value);
}

.current-section {
  border-color: var(--light-hsl-value);
}
}
}

```

html



```

<header>
  <h1>Pasta's Corner</h1>
</header>
<nav>
  <ul>
    <li><a href="/">Home</a></li>
    <li class="current-section" aria-current="page"><a href="/blog/">Blog</a>
  </li>
  </ul>
</nav>

```

▶ Run code snippet

🔗 Expand

Result light mode:



Result dark mode:



As you can see, the navigation links in dark mode blend into the background because the dark color-scheme media query isn't being applied for some elements nested in the `<nav>` tag in dark mode (particularly the `a` and `.current-section` rules). I have no idea what causes this to happen, but ChatGPT hinted at the comma selector list and the nested CSS rules being the cause, though I couldn't really find anything in the [MDN page](#) that pointed out the specific problem. I have also tried splitting the rules to no avail. This happens on both Firefox 145 and Edge 142. I am unable to test sites on GNOME Web via WSL2 with dark mode.

html css eleventy

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edited Nov 15 at 18:10

asked Nov 14 at 19:33



Karma Cool

121 ● 1 ● 10

1 ▲ I made snippets. Please edit them to make [minimal reproducible examples](#) – [mplungjan](#) Nov 15 at 7:04

1 ▲ It's a matter of [specificity](#) of your selectors. The class selector has a specificity of `0-1-0`, whereas the element selector only has `0-0-1`. So in your first example, in dark mode, the nested `.header-bar { a:link {} }` matches your links, and applies `color: var(--light-hsl-value)` - in the second one however, `nav { ul { li { a:link {} } } }` matches with highest priority, and applies `color: var(--dark-hsl-value)` – [C3roe](#) Nov 17 at 7:25 ✎

@C3roe yep. Managed to figure that out thanks to [Reddit](#). Would have loved to answer my own question with this info, but it is still stuck in review purgatory. – [Karma Cool](#) Nov 17 at 18:03

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