

Tailwind CSS v4 — Cheat Sheet

Utility-first CSS. CSS-first config (@import "tailwindcss" + @theme). Verified against tailwindcss.com/docs. See the Tailwind Reference for full pages & examples.

INSTALL & STYLESHEET

```
npm i tailwindcss @tailwindcss/vite → add
tailwindcss() to vite.config
PostCSS: @tailwindcss/postcss · CLI: npx
@tailwindcss/cli -i in.css -o out.css --watch
Prototype only: <script
src="https://unpkg.com/@tailwindcss/browser@4">
CSS entry (replaces v3's 3 @tailwind lines):
@import "tailwindcss";
Editor: Tailwind CSS IntelliSense + prettier-plugin-
tailwindcss. Baseline: Safari 16.4+, Chrome 111+, FF 128+.
```

CLASS ANATOMY

```
dark:md:hover:bg-sky-500/75
dark: md: hover: variants (stack, read L→R)
bg-                property
sky-500            colour family + shade (50-950)
/75                opacity modifier (%; replaces bg-
opacity-*)
Arbitrary value top-[117px] · property [mask-
type:luminance] · variant [&p]:mt-4
CSS var shorthand bg-(--brand) · hint text-(length:--
x)
Important: flex! (v3: !flex)
```

VARIANTS

```
State hover focus focus-visible focus-within
active disabled checked required invalid
Structural first last only odd even empty nth-3
nth-[3n+1]
Pseudo-el before after placeholder file marker
selection first-line backdrop (before:content-
['x'])
Relational group+group-hover: / peer+peer-checked:
(later sibling) / named group/x / group-has-[a]:
Children *: direct, **: all · has-[checked]: not-
hover: in-focus:
Attr aria-[sort=ascending]: data-[size=lg]: open:
rtl:
Media dark: motion-reduce: contrast-more: print:
supports-[...]: portrait:
Reusable: @custom-variant hocus (&:hover,&:focus);
```

RESPONSIVE & CONTAINER

```
sm          40rem / 640px
md          48rem / 768px
lg          64rem / 1024px
xl          80rem / 1280px
2xl        96rem / 1536px
Mobile-first: bare = all sizes; md:* = ≥ that width. Range
md:max-lg:*. One-off min-[720px]:.
Custom: @theme{ --breakpoint-xs:30rem; }
Container queries @container then @sm: @md: @max-
md:, named @container/main + @lg/main:, units cqw.
```

LAYOUT / FLEX / GRID

```
block inline-flex grid hidden · relative absolute
inset-0 z-10 · overflow-auto · aspect-video ·
container
Flex flex flex-col flex-wrap · grow shrink basis-
1/2 (v4 renamed flex-grow/shrink) · order-2
Grid grid grid-cols-3 grid-cols-[1fr_2fr] col-
span-2 gap-6 auto-rows-min grid-flow-col
Align justify-between items-center self-start
place-content-center
Table table-fixed border border-collapse border-spacing-2
caption-side-bottom
```

SPACING & SIZING

```
p-4 px-6 pt-2 ps-3 · m-4 -mt-2 mx-auto · space-y-4
· gap-6
Scale: 4 = 1rem (--spacing × n). Arbitrary p-[5px] ,
fraction w-1/2.
w-full h-screen size-10 min-w-0 max-w-prose w-dvw
w-fit · max-w-md from --container-*
```

TYPOGRAPHY

```
font-sans font-mono · text-xs..text-9xl (+ paired
leading, or text-lg/7) · font-bold italic antialiased
tabular-nums
tracking-tight leading-relaxed line-clamp-3 text-
center indent-8 align-middle
text-balance text-pretty break-words hyphens-auto
whitespace-pre-wrap truncate
text-sky-700 text-black/70 underline decoration-
wavy decoration-2 underline-offset-4 uppercase
list-disc list-inside marker:text-sky-500
Plugins: @plugin "@tailwindcss/typography"; (prose
prose-invert) · @tailwindcss/forms
```

COLOURS / BG / BORDER

```
22 families × 50-950, OKLCH. Opacity / : bg-sky-500/20.
Var: var(--color-sky-500).
bg bg-sky-500 bg-[url(/x.jpg)] bg-cover bg-center
bg-clip-text
gradient bg-linear-to-r (v3 bg-gradient-to-r) from-
sky-500 via-red-500 to-yellow-400 from-30%
border border border-2 border-x; default colour =
currentColor → set border-gray-300; rounded-xl
rounded-t-lg divide-y
outline/ring outline-hidden (v3 outline-none) · ring-2
ring-sky-500 ring-offset-2 (v4 ring=1px currentColor)
```

EFFECTS / TRANSITIONS / TRANSFORMS

```
shadow-sm shadow-lg shadow-sky-500/30 inset-
shadow-sm text-shadow-lg opacity-75 mix-blend-
multiply
mask-b-from-50% · filters blur-sm brightness-110
grayscale drop-shadow-lg · backdrop-blur-md
transition transition-colors duration-300 ease-
in-out delay-100 · transition-discrete
starting:open:opacity-0
animate-spin animate-pulse motion-reduce:animate-
none
scale-105 rotate-3 -translate-x-2 skew-x-6
origin-top · 3D perspective-[800px] transform-3d
rotate-x-30 backface-hidden
v4 renames: shadow-sm→xs, shadow-sm; rounded-sm;
blur-sm→xs
```

INTERACTIVITY / SVG / A11Y

```
accent-sky-600 caret-pink-500 appearance-none
cursor-pointer field-sizing-content pointer-
events-none resize-y
scroll-smooth scroll-mt-16 snap-x snap-mandatory
snap-center touch-pan-y select-none will-change-
transform
SVG fill-sky-500 stroke-current stroke-2
a11y sr-only / focus:not-sr-only · forced-color-
adjust-none
```

THEME & CUSTOMIZATION (CSS)

```
@theme{ --color-brand:#3f3cbb; --font-
display:"Satoshi"; --breakpoint-3xl:120rem; } →
makes bg-brand, font-display... + var(--color-
brand)
Namespaces: --color-* --font-* --text-* --spacing
--radius-* --shadow-* --breakpoint-* --container-
* --animate-* --ease-*
Clear: --color-*: initial · ref: @theme inline ·
keyframes go inside @theme
@utility tab-4 { tab-size: 4; } · functional @utility
tab-* { tab-size: --value(integer); }
@custom-variant dark (&:where(.dark, .dark *));
@apply (sparingly) · @reference "../app.css"; in
Vue/Svelte <style>
@source "..." / @source not / @source inline("
{hover:;},underline") · @plugin · legacy @config
"tw.config.js"
Funcs: --spacing(4) · --alpha(var(--color-x)/10%);
theme() dot-notation deprecated
```

DARK MODE

```
Default = prefers-color-scheme: bg-white dark:bg-
slate-900
Manual: @custom-variant dark (&:where(.dark, .dark
*)); then toggle html.classList, persist in
localStorage; add inline <head> script to avoid flash.
```

V3 → V4 QUICK FIXES

```
@tailwind base...      @import "tailwindcss"
tailwind.config.js     @theme / @source / @config
shadow / shadow-sm    shadow-sm / shadow-xs
rounded / rounded-sm  rounded-sm / rounded-xs
outline-none           outline-hidden
bg-gradient-to-r       bg-linear-to-r
flex-grow / flex-shrink grow / shrink
bg-opacity-50          bg-black/50
!flex                 flex!
bg-[--x]              bg(--x)
Tool: npx @tailwindcss/upgrade (Node 20+).
```