

# Tool to Stylize a Bulleted List (HTML & CSS)

If you've ever tried to customize bullet points in HTML or CSS, you've probably hit a wall. Changing colors, swapping shapes, or replacing bullets with emojis or icons sounds simple—but it often turns into a time-suck of trial and error.

That's why I built a [free tool to stylize a bulleted list using HTML and CSS](#). It's quick, visual, and beginner-friendly. But before you dive in, let's answer some of the most common questions people ask about customizing list bullets.

## How to change bullet points to icons in CSS

You can use the `::before` pseudo-element in CSS to replace default bullets with icons. For example:

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```
ul.custom-icons li::before {  
  content: "?";  
  margin-right: 8px;  
  color: green;  
}
```

This overrides the default bullet and replaces it with a custom symbol. You'll also want to set `list-style-type: none;` to remove the built-in bullet.

## How to change color of list bullets in CSS

Default bullets inherit the text color, so if you just change `color`, both the bullet and the text change. If you want to color **only** the bullet, use the `::marker` pseudo-element (supported in modern browsers):

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```
ul li::marker {  
  color: red;  
}
```

If `::marker` isn't supported, fall back to `::before` as shown earlier.

## How to change bullet shape in HTML

HTML itself doesn't offer many options—just `ul` and `ol` with different `list-style-type` values:

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```
<ul style="list-style-type: square;">
  <li>Item</li>
</ul>
```

Options include `disc`, `circle`, `square`, and `none`. For anything beyond that, you'll need CSS or a custom icon approach.

## How do I change the bullet point style?

Use the `list-style-type` property in CSS:

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```
ul {
  list-style-type: square;
}
```

Or completely remove the default bullet and insert your own:

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```
ul li::before {
  content: "?";
  margin-right: 8px;
}
```

## How do I change the color of just bullet points?

As mentioned above, use `::marker` (if supported):

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```
ul li::marker {
  color: blue;
}
```

Otherwise, use `::before` to create a custom “bullet” and style it separately.

## How do I change the color of list items in HTML?

That part's simple—just apply `color` normally:

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```
ul li {  
  color: #333;  
}
```

Or use inline styles:

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```
<li style="color: #333;">List item</li>
```

## How do I replace bullet points with an image in CSS?

You can use `list-style-image`, but it's dated and inconsistent across browsers. Better to go custom:

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```
ul.custom li::before {  
  content: " ";  
  background: url('checkmark.png') no-repeat left center;  
  width: 16px;  
  height: 16px;  
  display: inline-block;  
  margin-right: 8px;  
}
```

## How do I change the bullet type?

You can switch between `disc`, `circle`, and `square` using `list-style-type`:

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```
ul {  
  list-style-type: circle;  
}
```

For arrows, emojis, or icons, use `::before` and set your own `content`.

## How do you change the format of a bullet style in a list?

It depends what you mean by "format." If you want:

- A new **shape** ? use `list-style-type` or `::before`
- A different **color** ? use `::marker` or custom CSS
- A different **icon or emoji** ? insert it with `::before`
- A **custom layout** ? style `li` elements directly

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## Want to skip the code?

You don't need to wrestle with CSS just to make a list look good. [Use this free HTML list builder tool](#) to:

- Choose from dozens of bullet styles (?, ?, ?, emojis, and more)
- Preview your list instantly
- Copy clean HTML with inline styling
- Avoid browser quirks and manual CSS hacks

## Final Thoughts

Whether you're building a professional landing page or just want your blog lists to stand out, customizing your bullet points helps. It's a small detail that can have a big visual impact.

If you've struggled with CSS quirks or just want a simpler solution, check out the [Stylized List Builder Tool](#). It handles the formatting so you can focus on content.

Original article: <https://www.tonyherman.com/tool-to-stylize-a-bulleted-list-html-css/>

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