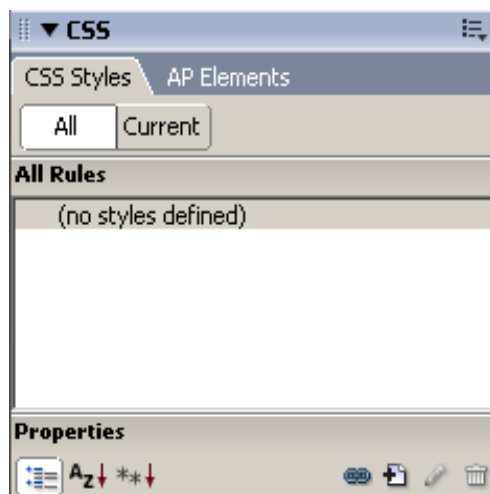


## Cascading Style Sheets

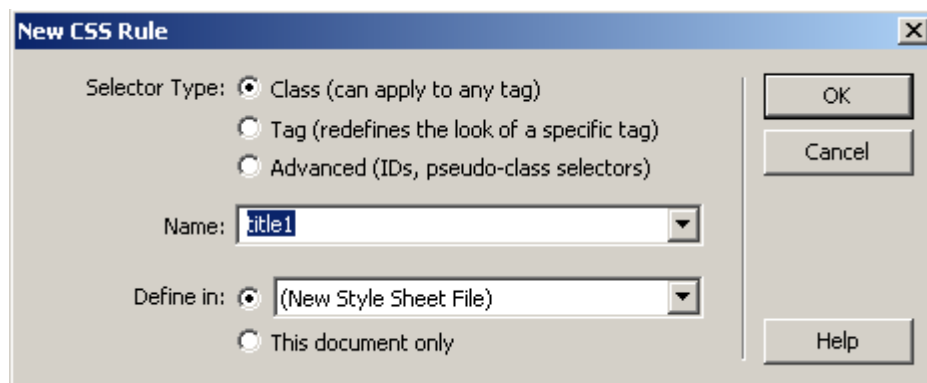
In web development, **Cascading Style Sheets (CSS)** is a stylesheet language used to describe the presentation of a document written in a markup language. Its most common application is to style web pages written in HTML and XHTML. Formatting details are generally stored in separate files with a .css extension, and the file is referenced in the HTML document. This means if you copy your file to a disc or upload to a server the stylesheet file has to be uploaded as well.

For more information visit W3C at <http://www.w3.org/Style/CSS/>

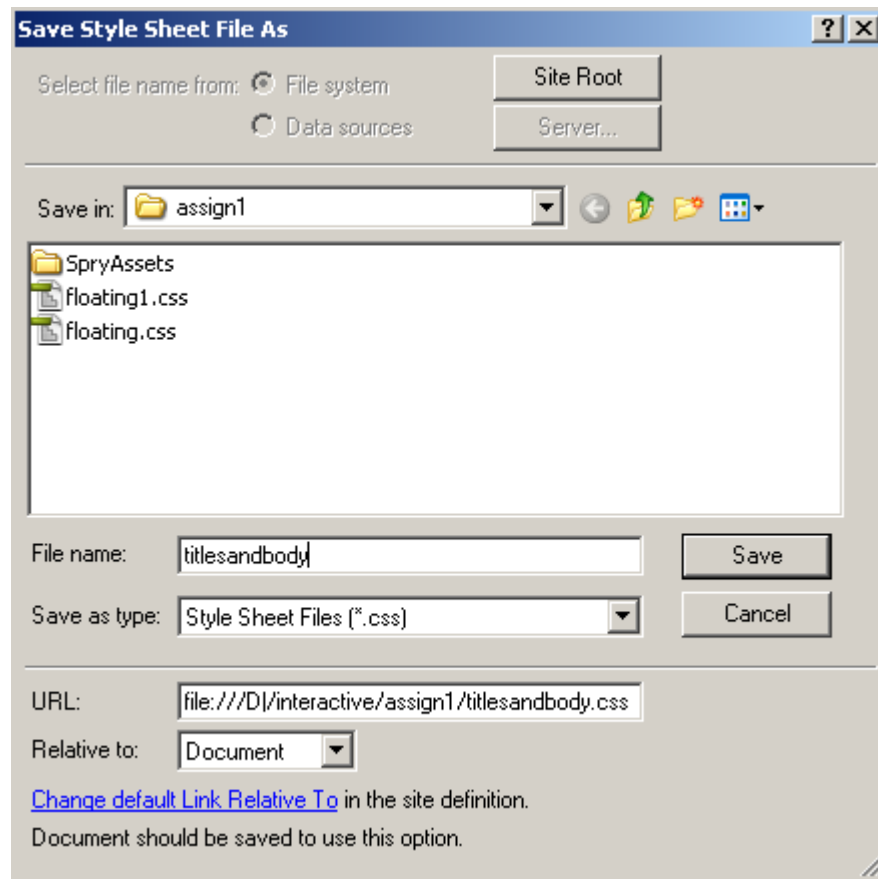
To create style sheets using Dreamweaver, first open your CSS panel to the right of the screen



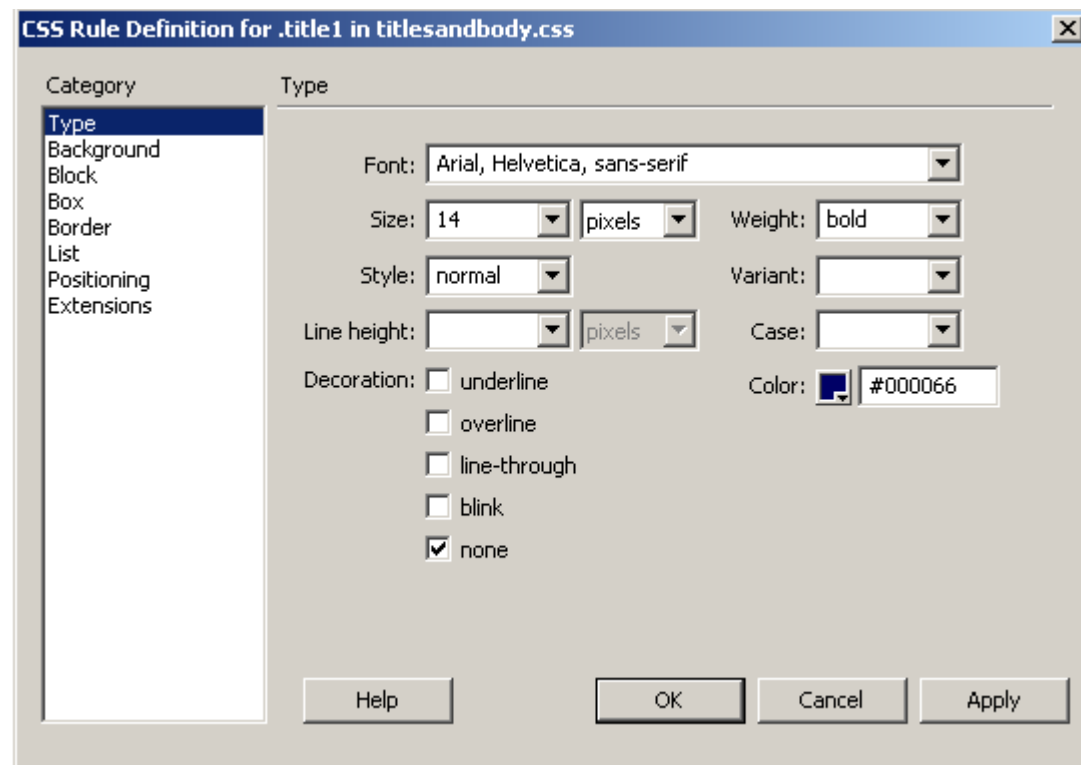
To create a new style, switch the view to **All** and right click where it says (no styles defined) then choose **New** from the pop-up menu. The **New CSS Rule** dialog box will open. For general text formatting the selector type is **Class (can apply to any tag)**. Type a name for your style such as title1 (avoid using names which are HTML tags such as body or title) and then press **OK**.



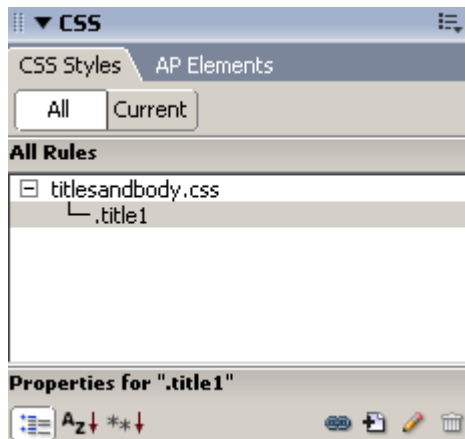
You will then be prompted to save a new style sheet. A style sheet can hold as many defined styles as you like. For example I may create a style sheet that has all the styles for my headings and different types of body text.



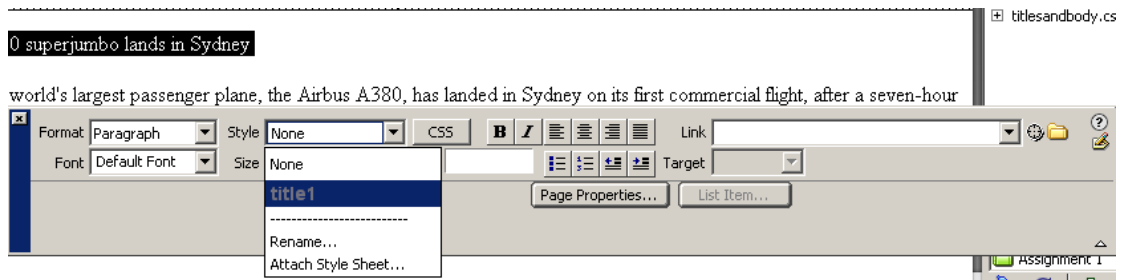
Give the style sheet a name and you will then be prompted to set the formatting for your first style, in this case 'title1'.



You will notice you have a lot more options than HTML, such as backgrounds and borders. Once you press OK, the style will appear in your CSS panel.

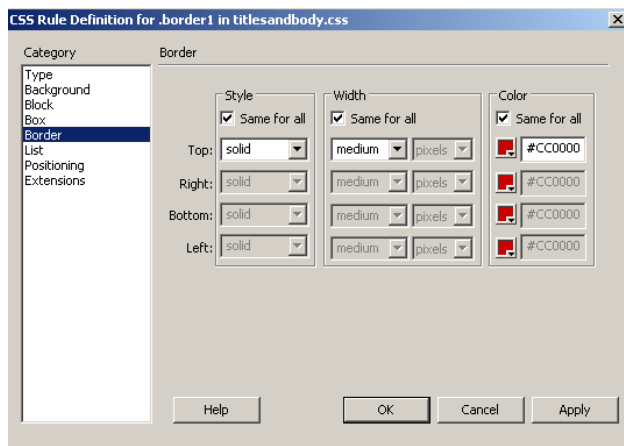


To apply your style to your text, select the text and choose the style from the Properties toolbar.

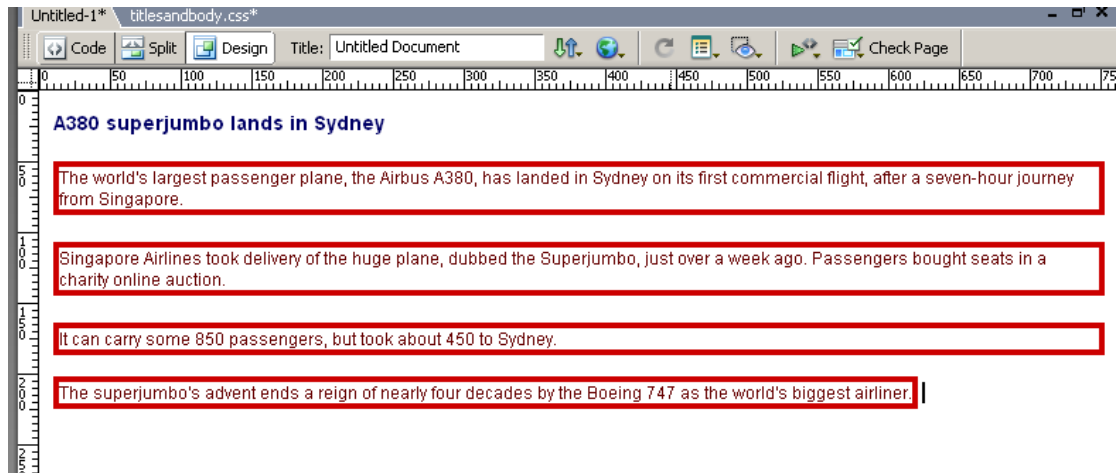


## Using DIV Tags to Define Elements

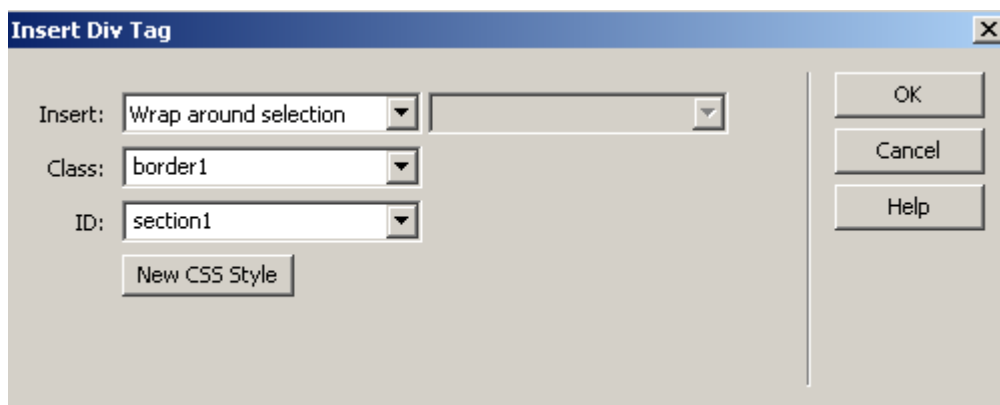
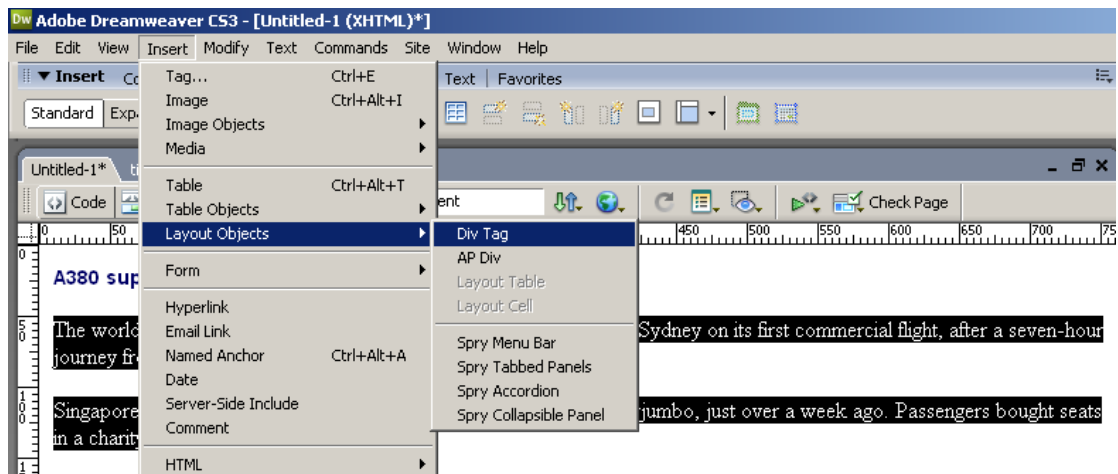
In many cases, you may need to use DIV tags to define elements such as sections of text. For example if I want to place a border around a section, and don't use a DIV Tag the border will repeat at the HTML paragraph breaks. To stop this happening DIV tags are placed around the section and then the style applied to the DIV Tags. First of all the border style is created:



If this is then applied to a section of text without DIV tags it will look like this:

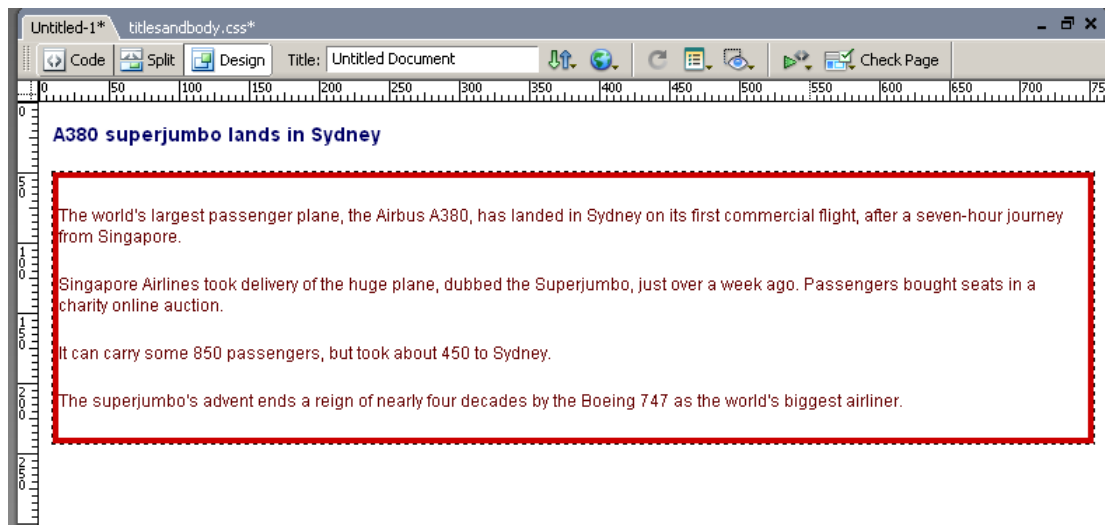


To apply DIV tags to the selection, select the text, go to Insert > Layout Objects > Div Tag. Give your tag an ID (this is a name that will help you remember what the element is later on eg. section1). The style can also be applied here or applied later using the properties toolbar.



The style can also be applied by clicking on the dotted border that indicates the DIV tag area and this should become highlighted and applying the style using the properties toolbar.

The text should now look like this:

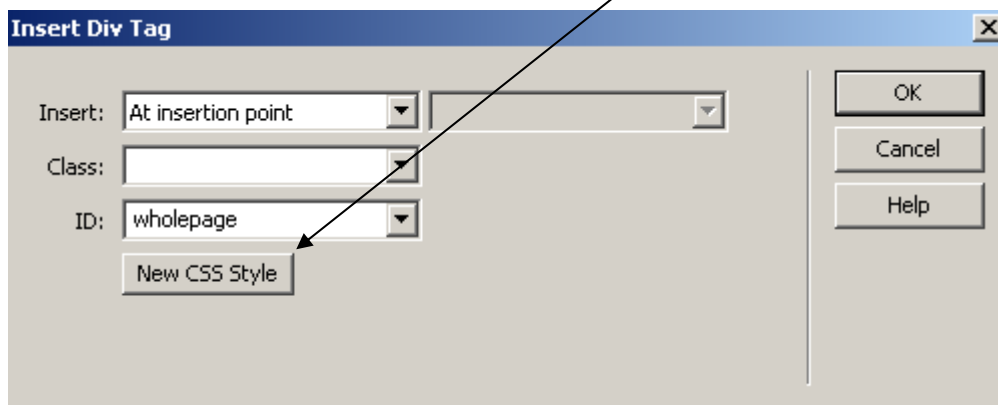


## Using Nested DIV Tags

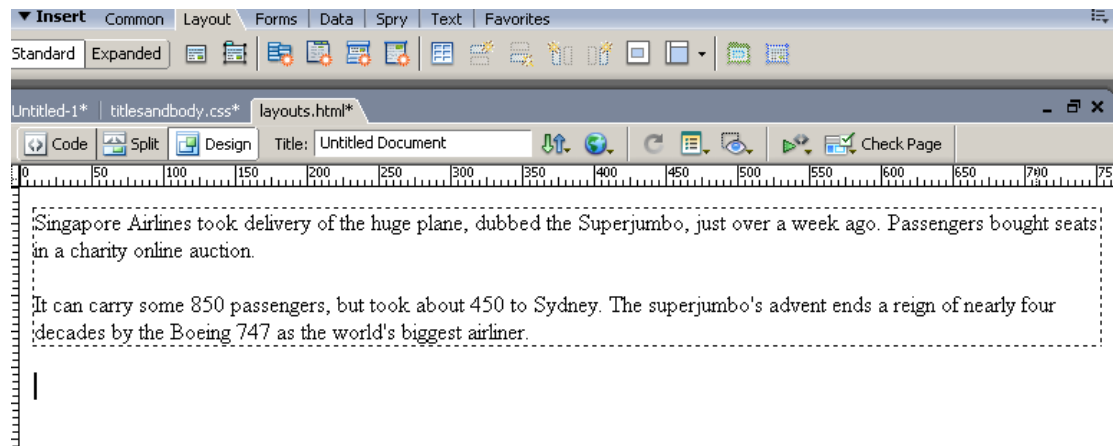
The above use of DIV Tags is OK for simple formatting but if you are going to start using CSS to create page layouts then you have to use nested DIV tags. This means having 1 DIV Tag defining the whole page and then other DIV tags inside that for different elements. This means the page DIV tag can be used to set page width and alignment etc. and the nested tags used to set positions within the overall definition.

## Creating Page Layouts

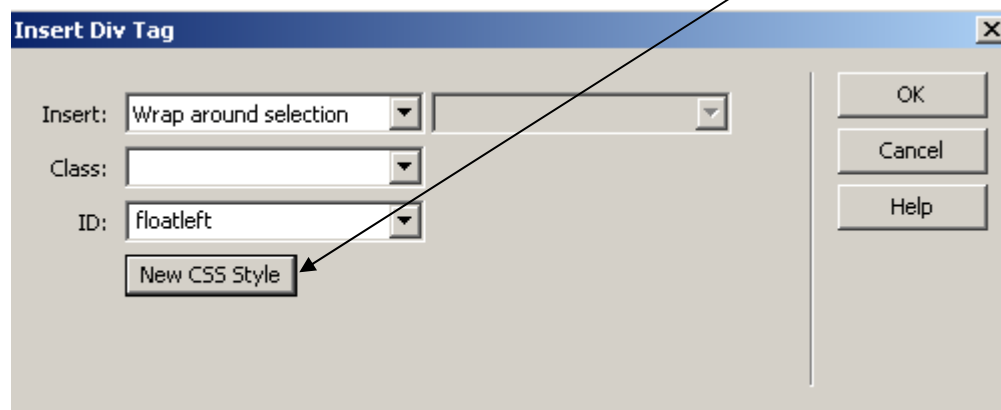
To create a simple 2 columns layout. First insert a DIV tag for the entire page (give the tag an ID such as 'wholepage') and press 'New CSS Style'. Change a property such as font.



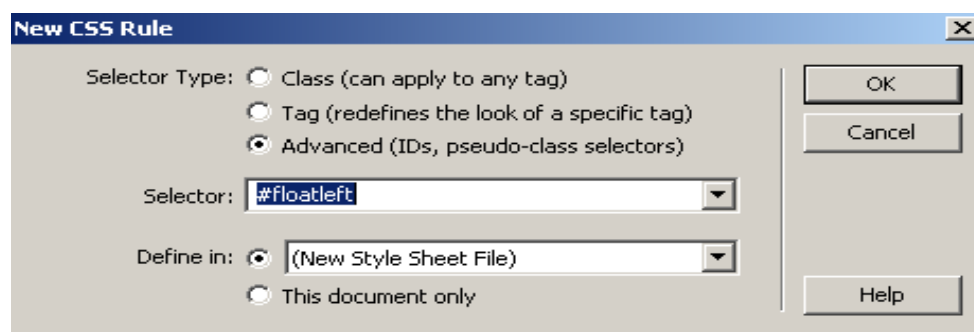
It is important you do this as this means it will be visible in the styles panel later.



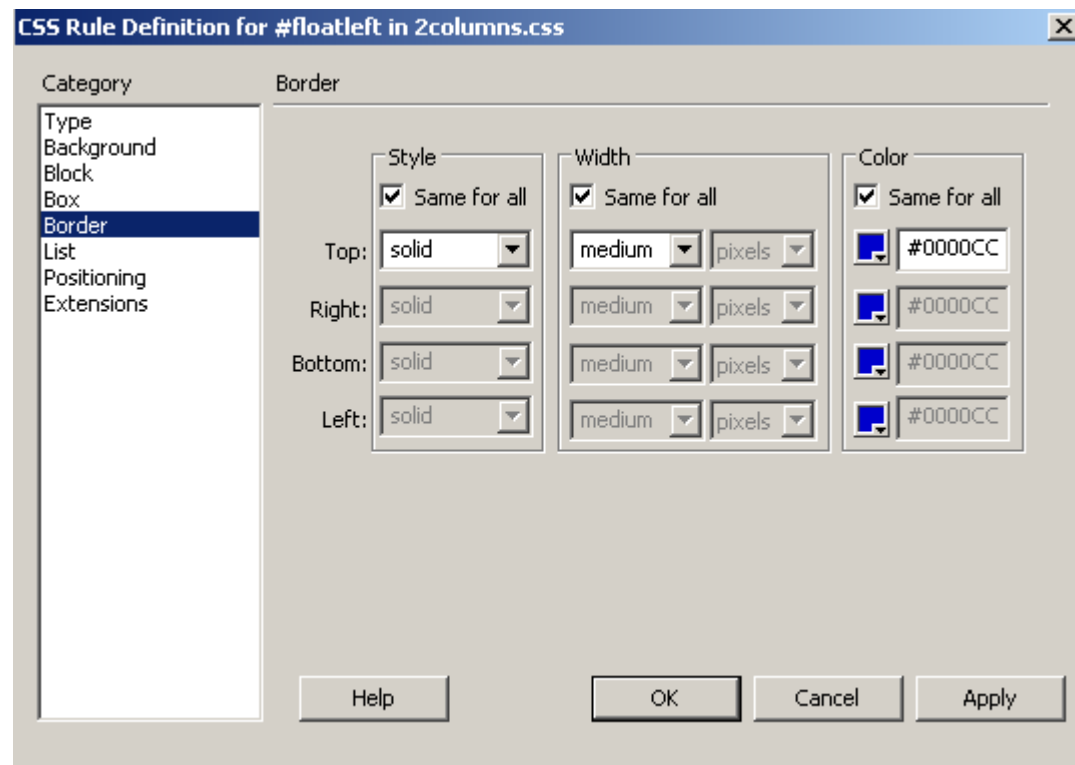
Next add two paragraphs of text. Now select each paragraph and add a DIV tag to each paragraph call the top paragraph 'floatleft' then click New CSS Style.



Note: In the class box you could have added the style if it was already defined, this would save a lot of time.

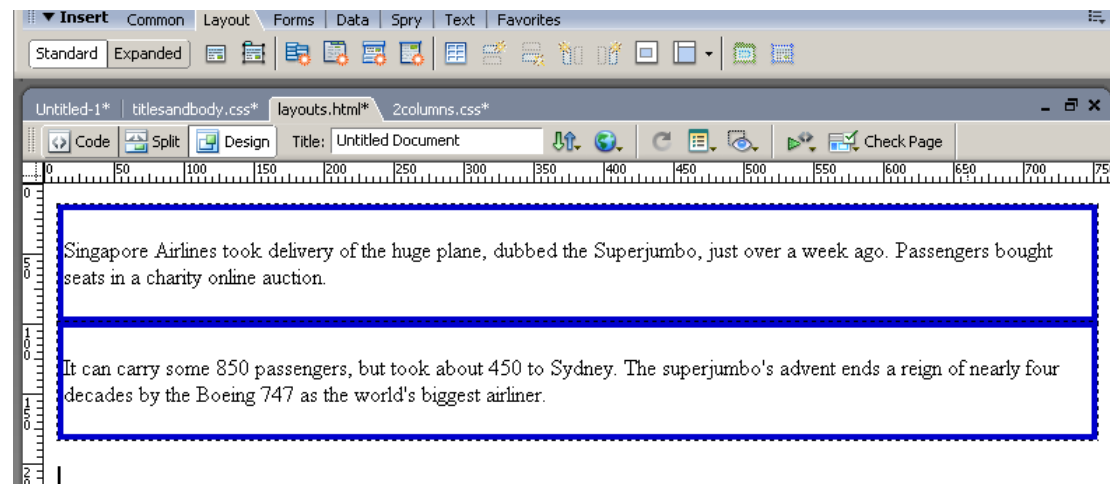


This will automatically name your style #floatleft and when you press OK you will be prompted to save the style sheet. Call this '2columns'. Next set a border using the CSS Rules:

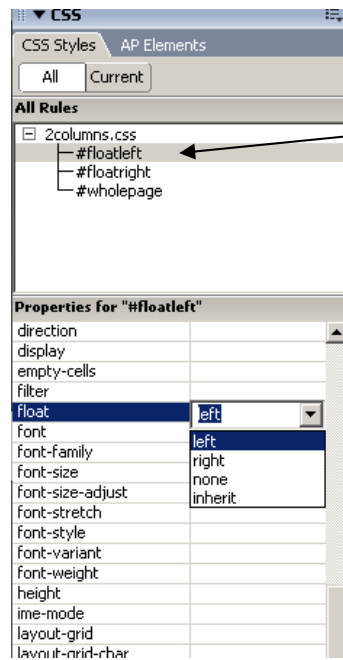


Do the same again for the bottom paragraph but call it float right.

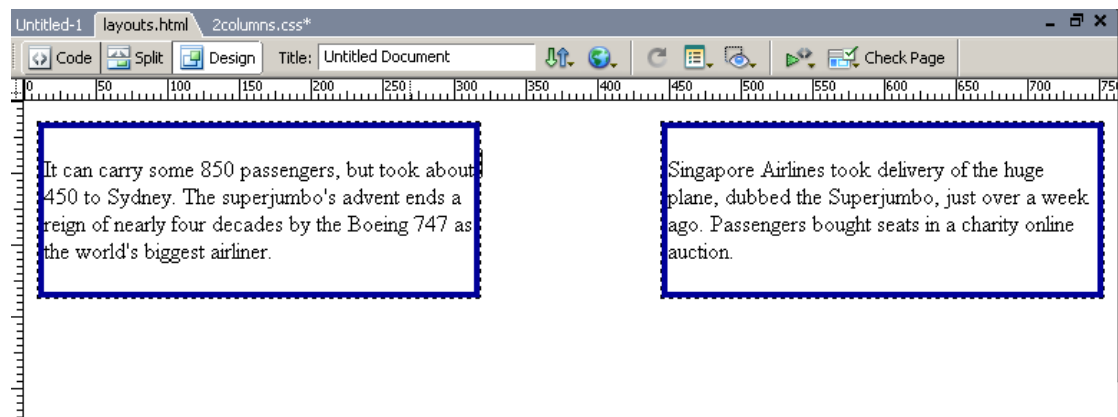
This should now look like this:



Now go to the CSS panel and click on the 'floatleft' ID. List your properties alphabetically and find the **width** property. Set this to 300 pixels. Next find the **float** property and set this to 'float left'. Do the same with the floatright DIV tag **but set the float proerty to right** and you should have 2 columns of text.



Ensure you select the DIV tag property here and not in the design window



This is a relative setting and the position of the columns will change according to the user's resolution and window size. This can easily be changed by setting the 'wholepage' DIV Tag width. For example I could set it to 620 pixels to allow for the borders and it would look like this:

