



Selenium Locators (Java)

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This document provides a summary of the most critical locator strategies utilized in automated user interface (UI) testing, encompassing Simple Locators, XPath expressions, and CSS Selectors.

1. Simple Locators (Fundamental Methods)

Strategy	Example	One-Line Explanation
ID	<code>By.id("username")</code>	Locates an element via its unique ID attribute, representing the most reliable method.
Name	<code>By.name("password")</code>	Locates an element based on the name attribute, typically utilized in form structures.
Class Name	<code>By.className("btn-primary")</code>	Identifies elements utilizing the designated class attribute value.
Tag Name	<code>By.tagName("a")</code>	Retrieves all elements defined by a specific HTML tag (e.g., anchor tags).
Link Text	<code>By.linkText("Login")</code>	Identifies an anchor link (<a>) based on its exact visible text content.
Partial Link Text	<code>By.partialLinkText("Forgot")</code>	Identifies an anchor link (<a>) whose text content partially contains the specified value.

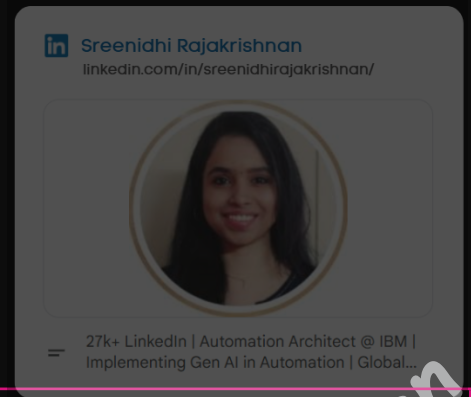
```
WebElement element = driver.findElement(By.id("username"));
```

```
element.click();
```

```
element.sendKeys("Hello");
```

```
String elText = element.getText();
```

2. XPath Selectors (Navigational Expressions)

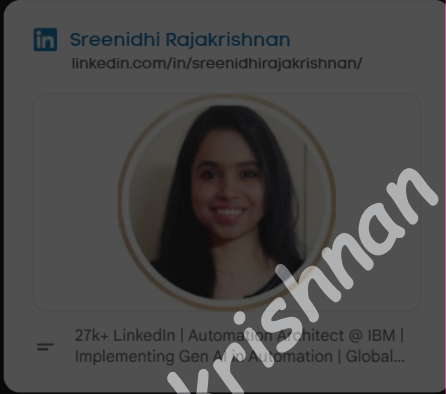
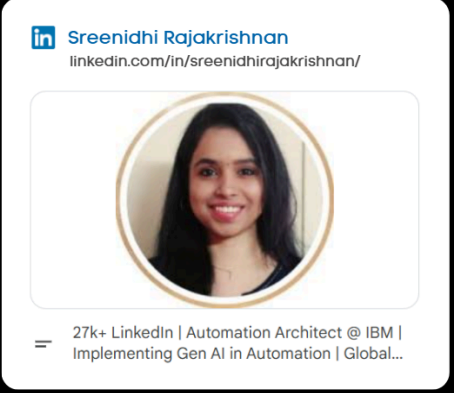


Strategy	Example	One-Line Explanation
Relative Path	<code>//div</code>	Selects all <code><div></code> elements regardless of their position within the document structure.
Attribute Match	<code>//input[@id="username"]</code>	Selects <code><input></code> elements possessing the specified <code>id</code> attribute value.
Specific Child	<code>//ul/li[3]</code>	Selects the third <code></code> element, provided it is a direct child of a <code></code> tag.
Any Element	<code>//*[@id="login"]</code>	Selects any element type that contains the <code>id="login"</code> attribute.
Text Match (Exact)	<code>//button[text()='Login']</code>	Selects the <code><button></code> element matching the exact text content "Login".
Text Contains	<code>//a[contains(text(), "Forgot")]</code>	Selects the <code><a></code> element whose text content contains the string "Forgot".
Attribute Contains	<code>//div[contains(@class, "error")]</code>	Selects <code><div></code> elements whose class attribute value contains the specified substring "error".
Multiple Conditions	<code>//input[@type="text" and @name="user"]</code>	Selects <code><input></code> elements that satisfy both provided attribute conditions concurrently.

Following Sibling	<code>//h2/following-sibling::p[1]</code>	Selects the initial <code><p></code> element immediately following the current <code><h2></code> as a sibling.
Ancestor	<code>//button/ancestor::form</code>	Selects the closest <code><form></code> element positioned as an ancestor (parent or higher) of the <code><button></code> .

3. CSS Selectors (Style-Based Identification)

Strategy	Example	One-Line Explanation
ID	<code>#username</code>	Identifies the element corresponding to the ID selector.
Class	<code>.btn-primary</code>	Identifies elements assigned the class attribute value.
Tag + Class	<code>button.submit</code>	Selects <code><button></code> elements that possess the defined class attribute.
Attribute (Exact)	<code>[type="submit"]</code>	Locates elements matching the exact attribute and value specified.
Starts-with (^)	<code>[id^="msg-"]</code>	Identifies elements whose ID attribute value commences with the prefix "msg-".
Ends-with (\$)	<code>[href\$=".pdf"]</code>	Identifies links whose href attribute value terminates with the suffix ".pdf".
Contains (*)	<code>[class*="error"]</code>	Identifies elements whose class attribute value contains the substring "error".

Descendant	<code>div p</code>	<p>Selects all <code><p></code> elements located within a <code><div></code> container, irrespective of nested depth.</p> 
Direct Child	<code>ul > li</code>	<p>Selects <code></code> elements that serve as immediate children of a <code></code> element.</p>
Adjacent Sibling	<code>h2 + p</code>	<p>Selects the <code><p></code> adjacent sibling of an <code><h2></code> element.</p> 
nth-child(n)	<code>tr:nth-child(3)</code>	<p>Selects the element within its immediate parent that is the nth child of the parent.</p>
Negation	<code>input:not([disabled])</code>	<p>Selects all <code><input></code> elements that do not possess the disabled attribute.</p>



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