li:nth-child(1)

One
Two
Three
Four

Five
Six
Seven
Eight

select elements that are the first child of their parent

:nth-child(odd) li:nthchild(-n+3)

One
Two
Three
Four

Five Six Seven Eight

Nine Ten Eleven Twelve

select the first three elements inside of every odd element

:nth-child(2) :nthchild(3)

One Two Three Four

Five
Six
Seven
Eight

select the third child element of the second element