

ADV3550

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CSS Horizontal Align

In CSS, several properties are used to align elements horizontally. We will focus on how to horizontally align block elements for layout purposes.

Block elements can be aligned by setting the left and right margins to "auto". You can center align by using the margin Property

Aligning Block Elements

A block element is an element that takes up the full width available, and has a line break before and after it.

Examples of block elements:

```
<h1>
<p>
<div>
```

Setting the left and right margins to auto specifies that they should split the available margin equally. (Tip: Aligning has no effect if the width is 100%.) The result is a centered element:

```
.center
{
margin-left: auto;
margin-right: auto;
width: 70%;
background-color: #b0e0e6;
}
```

One method of aligning elements is to use absolute positioning:

```
.right
{
position: absolute;
right: 0px;
width: 300px;
background-color: #b0e0e6;
}
```

CSS classes can also be used with pseudo-classes:

The syntax of pseudo-classes:

```
selector:pseudo-class {property:value;}
```

```
selector.class:pseudo-class {property:value;}
```

Anchor Pseudo-classes

Links can be displayed in different ways:

```
a:link {color:#FF0000;} /* unvisited link */
a:visited {color:#00FF00;} /* visited link */
```

```
a:hover {color: #FF00FF;} /* mouse over link */
a:active {color: #0000FF;} /* selected link */
```

```
<a class="red" href="css_syntax.asp">CSS Syntax</a>
```

If the link in the example above has been visited, it will be displayed in red.

Navigation Bars

Having easy-to-use navigation is important for any web site.

Navigation Bar = List of Links

A navigation bar needs standard HTML as a base.

In our examples we will build the navigation bar from a standard HTML list.

A navigation bar is basically a list of links, so using the and elements makes perfect sense:

```
<ul>
<li><a href="default.asp">Home</a></li>
<li><a href="news.asp">News</a></li>
<li><a href="contact.asp">Contact</a></li>
<li><a href="about.asp">About</a></li>
</ul>
```

Now let's remove the bullets and the margins and padding from the list:

```
ul
{
list-style-type: none;
margin: 0;
padding: 0;
}
```

list-style-type: none - Removes the bullets. (A navigation bar does not need list markers.) Set margins and padding to 0 to remove browser default settings.

The code in the example above is the standard code used in both vertical, and horizontal navigation bars.

Vertical Navigation Bar

To build a vertical navigation bar we only need to style the <a> elements, in addition to the code above:

```
a
{
display: block;
width: 60px;
}
```

display: block - Displaying the links as block elements makes the whole link area clickable (not just the text), and it allows us to specify the width

width: 60px - Block elements take up the full width available by default. We want to specify a width of 60px.

Horizontal Navigation Bar

There are two ways to create a horizontal navigation bar. Using **inline** or **floating** list items. Both methods work fine, but if you want the links to be the same size, you have to use the floating method.

Inline List Items

One way to build a horizontal navigation bar is to specify the elements as inline, in addition to the "standard" code above:

```
li
{
display: inline;
}
```

display: inline; - By default, elements are block elements. Here, we remove the line breaks before and after each list item, to display them on one line

Floating List Items

In the example above the links have different widths.

For all the links to have an equal width, float the elements and specify a width for the <a> elements:

```
li
{
float: left;
}
a
{
display: block;
width: 60px;
}
```

float: left - use float to get block elements to slide next to each other

display: block - Displaying the links as block elements makes the whole link area clickable (not just the text), and it allows us to specify the width

width: 60px - Since block elements take up the full width available, they cannot float next to each other. We specify the width of the links to 60px