CSS Margins

This element has a margin of 70px.

CSS Margins

The CSS `margin` properties are used to create space around elements, outside of any defined borders.

With CSS, you have full control over the margins. There are properties for setting the margin for each side of an element (top, right, bottom, and left).

Margin - Individual Sides

CSS has properties for specifying the margin for each side of an element:

- `margin-top`
- `margin-right`
- `margin-bottom`
- `margin-left`

All the margin properties can have the following values:

- auto - the browser calculates the margin
- *length* - specifies a margin in px, pt, cm, etc.
- *%* - specifies a margin in % of the width of the containing element
- inherit - specifies that the margin should be inherited from the parent element

Tip: Negative values are allowed.

The following example sets different margins for all four sides of a <p> element:

Example

```
p {
  margin-top: 100px;
  margin-bottom: 100px;
  margin-right: 150px;
  margin-left: 80px;
}
```

Margin - Shorthand Property

To shorten the code, it is possible to specify all the margin properties in one property.

The `margin` property is a shorthand property for the following individual margin properties:

- `margin-top`
- `margin-right`
- `margin-bottom`
- `margin-left`

So, here is how it works:

If the `margin` property has four values:

- **margin: 25px 50px 75px 100px;**
    - top margin is 25px
    - right margin is 50px
    - bottom margin is 75px
    - left margin is 100px

Example

```
p {
  margin: 25px 50px 75px 100px;
}
```

If the `margin` property has three values:

- **margin: 25px 50px 75px;**
    - top margin is 25px
    - right and left margins are 50px
    - bottom margin is 75px

Example

```
p {
  margin: 25px 50px 75px;
}
```

If the `margin` property has two values:

- **margin: 25px 50px;**
    - top and bottom margins are 25px
    - right and left margins are 50px

Example

```
p {
  margin: 25px 50px;
}
```

If the `margin` property has one value:

- **margin: 25px;**
    - all four margins are 25px

Example

```
p {
  margin: 25px;
}
```

The auto Value

You can set the margin property to `auto` to horizontally center the element within its container.

The element will then take up the specified width, and the remaining space will be split equally between the left and right margins:

Example

```
div {
  width: 300px;
  margin: auto;
  border: 1px solid red;
}
```

The inherit Value

This example lets the left margin of the <p class="ex1"> element be inherited from the parent element (<div>):

Example

```
div {
  border: 1px solid red;
  margin-left: 100px;
}

p.ex1 {
  margin-left: inherit;
}
```

Margin Collapse

Top and bottom margins of elements are sometimes collapsed into a single margin that is equal to the largest of the two margins.

This does not happen on left and right margins! Only top and bottom margins!

Look at the following example:

Example

```
h1 {
    margin: 0 0 50px 0;
}

h2 {
    margin: 20px 0 0 0;
}
```

In the example above, the <h1> element has a bottom margin of 50px and the <h2> element has a top margin set to 20px.

Common sense would seem to suggest that the vertical margin between the <h1> and the <h2> would be a total of 70px (50px + 20px). But due to margin collapse, the actual margin ends up being 50px.

Test Yourself with Exercises!

All CSS Margin Properties

Property	Description
margin	A shorthand property for setting the margin properties in one declaration
margin-bottom	Sets the bottom margin of an element
margin-left	Sets the left margin of an element
margin-right	Sets the right margin of an element
margin-top	Sets the top margin of an element