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# Floating and Positioning

CSS isn't limited to just "prettying up" elements in the flow of the document. You can also use it to achieve basic page layout such as multiple columns, text wrap, and even positioning with pixel precision. This chapter introduces *floating* and *positioning*, the CSS methods for arranging elements on the page.

It should be noted that this chapter covers the CSS 2.1 specification for layout-related properties as they are intended to work. There are some notorious browser bugs that make implementing the tools illustrated here challenging. Browser issues will be noted here, but the details about specific browser problems and how to compensate for them are discussed further in Chapter 25.

This chapter covers these CSS 2.1 properties for controlling the positioning of elements.

float	bottom	overflow
clear	top	clip
position	left	visibility
bottom	right	z-index

## Normal Flow

Before jumping into methods for positioning elements, it is useful to have an understanding of what is meant by the "normal flow" of a document according to the CSS layout model. In the normal flow, text elements are laid out from top to bottom, and from left to right in left-to-right reading languages (or from right to left in right-to-left reading languages). This is the default behavior of the web browser.

In the normal flow, block-level elements stack on top of one another and inline elements fill the available space. When the browsing window is resized, the block elements expand or contract to the new width, and the inline content reflows to