CSS box model differences for block and inline elements

CSS box model differences for block and inline elements:

Feature	Block Elements	Inline Elements
Layout	Start on a new line; stack vertically; take full width of parent by default	Do not start on a new line; flow within text; take only as much width as their content
Width/Height	`width` and `height` properties are respected	`width` and `height` properties are ignored; size is determined by content and line height
Margin	All sides (`margin-top`, `margin-right`, `margin-bottom`, `margin-left`) are respected	Only horizontal margins (`margin-left`, `margin-right`) are respected; vertical margins are ignored
Padding	All sides (`padding-top`, `padding-right`, `padding-bottom`, `padding-left`) are respected	Only horizontal padding is respected; vertical padding does not affect layout of surrounding content
Border	All sides are respected and affect layout	Only horizontal borders affect layout; vertical borders do not push other content vertically
Box Model Impact	Padding, border, and margin push other elements away in all directions	Only left/right padding, border, and margin push adjacent inline content horizontally
Margin Collapsing	Vertical margins between adjacent block elements can collapse	Margin collapsing does not occur

Key points:

- **Block elements** (e.g., `<div>`, `<p>`) respect all box model properties and affect layout in both directions [1] [2] [3] [4] [5].

- **Inline elements** (e.g., `<span>`, `<a>`) only respect horizontal box model properties for layout; vertical properties do not push other elements and do not affect line height [2] [6] [4] [7].

- You cannot set width/height on inline elements, but you can on block elements [2] [4] [7].

If you want an element to behave like inline but also respect width, height, and all margin/padding, use `display: inline-block;` [7].

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1. https://dev.to/angelocodes/mastering-the-box-model-in-css-block-vs-inline-267n

2. https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Learn_web_development/Core/Styling_basics/Box_model

3. https://www.w3schools.com/html/html_blocks.asp

4. https://dev.to/horaceshmorace/understanding-the-css-box-model-content-box-vs-border-box-inline-vs-block-elements-1amh

5. https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/CSS/CSS_display/Block_and_inline_layout_in_normal_flow

6. https://www.brucebrotherton.com/blog/box-model-inline-and-block-elements/

7. https://www.digitalocean.com/community/tutorials/css-display-inline-vs-inline-block