

justify content vs justify items

The difference between `justify-content` and `justify-items` in CSS Grid lies in what each property aligns and at what level they operate:

- `justify-content` aligns the entire grid container's content (i.e., all the grid columns as a whole) **within the grid container** along the row (inline) axis. It controls the space distribution between and around all grid columns when the grid is smaller than its container. This property applies to the **grid container**, not to individual grid items.^{[1] [2]}
- `justify-items` aligns each **individual grid item inside its grid cell** along the row axis. It sets the default alignment for all items on the grid container, controlling how the content inside each grid cell is positioned (e.g., start, center, end, stretch). It applies at the level of grid items but is set on the container as a default for items.^{[1] [3] [4]}

Additionally, there is also `justify-self`, which overrides `justify-items` for individual grid items, letting you align a specific item differently from the default.

Summary table:

Property	Applies to	Controls alignment of	Level
<code>justify-content</code>	Grid container	The whole grid's columns inside the container	Container level
<code>justify-items</code>	Grid container (defaults)	Each grid item's content inside their cells	Item level (default)
<code>justify-self</code>	Individual grid items	Single grid item inside its cell (overrides <code>justify-items</code>)	Item level

Use `justify-content` to control the placement of the whole grid when there is extra space in the container. Use `justify-items` to control how content aligns within each grid cell.

This distinction makes `justify-content` about the grid structure's position inside the container, while `justify-items` aligns the content within each grid cell.^{[1] [3] [2]}



1. <https://stackoverflow.com/questions/48535585/what-is-difference-between-justify-self-justify-items-and-justify-content-in-css>
2. <https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/CSS/justify-content>
3. <https://discuss.codecademy.com/t/justify-items-vs-justify-content/742276>

4. <https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/CSS/justify-items>