

# inline or block element take whole space?

A **block element** takes up the entire width of its parent container by default, effectively *taking the whole available horizontal space*—even if its content is much smaller. This is why block elements, like `<div>`, `<p>`, and headings, always start on a new line and stack vertically on the page<sup>[1] [2] [3]</sup>.

An **inline element** only takes up as much space as its content needs. It does **not** start on a new line and sits next to other inline elements within the same line. Examples include `<span>`, `<a>`, and `<em>`<sup>[4] [1] [2]</sup>.

## Key differences:

Type	Takes Full Width?	Starts New Line?	Sets width/height?
Block	<b>Yes, by default</b>	Yes	Yes
Inline	<b>No, only as wide as content</b>	No	No (width/height ignored)

## Summary:

- A **block element** will stretch to fill the parent's width and push any following content to the next line, taking the "whole space" horizontally<sup>[1] [2] [3]</sup>.
- An **inline element** only takes up the space its content needs and does not take the entire horizontal space of its container<sup>[4] [2] [3]</sup>.



1. [https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/CSS/CSS\\_display/Block\\_and\\_inline\\_layout\\_in\\_normal\\_flow](https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/CSS/CSS_display/Block_and_inline_layout_in_normal_flow)
2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LDJMmKkpsVc>
3. <https://www.dhiwise.com/blog/design-converter/block-vs-inline-a-simple-guide-to-css-layout-behavior>
4. <https://web.stanford.edu/class/archive/cs/cs193x/cs193x.1176/lectures/05/block-inline>