

How an `` Element Gets Its Width and Height if Not Set in CSS

Default Behavior of Inline Elements and ``

- Inline elements, by default, do **not** have explicit width or height in CSS; their size is determined by their content.
- The `` element is an inline *replaced element*, which means it behaves differently from regular inline elements in terms of sizing.

What Makes `` Have Width and Height Without CSS

- The `` element inherently has **intrinsic dimensions** based on the image file's actual size (its natural width and height).
- Browsers use those intrinsic dimensions as the default width and height for the ``.
- Therefore, even if you do **not explicitly set width or height in CSS**, the image still displays at its natural size.

How This Differs from Other Inline Elements

Element	Width/Height Behavior Without CSS Setting
Regular Inline	Determined by content flow, no intrinsic size (e.g., text)
<code></code>	Gets size from its intrinsic image file dimensions

Summary

- For inline elements like `` or `<a>`, if width and height are not set, their size depends solely on the content, which usually means just the text inside.
- For the `` tag, the browser uses the **native dimensions** of the image file to assign an initial width and height, allowing it to display at a natural size even without CSS sizing.

This intrinsic sizing is why `` elements "have" width and height by default, while other inline elements do not. You can override this by using CSS to explicitly set different sizes if desired.