

Based on: CSS-Tricks — “inset()” function

Focus: English through technical reading (reading comprehension, vocabulary, speaking, writing).

[inset\(\) | CSS-Tricks](#)

In CSS, "inset" has two primary meanings depending on the context:

- **As a shorthand property for positioning:**
 - The inset CSS property is a shorthand for setting the top, right, bottom, and left properties simultaneously.
 - It only affects positioned elements (those with position set to relative, absolute, fixed, or sticky).
 - It accepts one, two, or four values, similar to the margin or padding shorthand:
 - `inset: value;` (applies to all four sides)
 - `inset: vertical horizontal;` (first value for top/bottom, second for left/right)
 - `inset: top right bottom left;` (individual values for each side)
 - For example, `inset: 0;` positions an absolutely positioned element to fill its parent completely, while `inset: 10px;` creates a 10px spacing from all sides of the parent.
- **As a value for border-style:**
 - When used with the border-style property, inset creates a 3D effect, making the element appear as if it is embedded or pushed into the background.
 - This effect is typically achieved by using different shades of the border-color to create a shadow and highlight illusion.
 - It is the opposite of outset, which makes the element appear to protrude from the background.

In summary, inset can be a powerful tool for controlling element positioning within a container or for creating visual depth with borders. The specific meaning depends on whether it is used as a property itself or as a value for another property.

SESSION 1

Vocabulary & Matching

Exercise 1 — Match the words

Match the words in **Column A** to their meanings in **Column B**.

A	Words	B	Meanings
1	<i>inset</i>	a	<i>a shape with four sides and four right angles</i>
2	<i>offset</i>	b	<i>a short way to write a longer expression</i>
3	<i>rectangle</i>	c	<i>to move something from its normal position</i>
4	<i>mask</i>	d	<i>a hidden part of an image or element</i>
5	<i>clip-path</i>	e	<i>an outline that decides what part of an element is visible</i>
6	<i>function</i>	f	<i>an action or operation performed by a program</i>
7	<i>property</i>	g	<i>a characteristic that defines something</i>
8	<i>shorthand</i>	h	<i>an inner space or margin inside a box</i>

Exercise 2 — Use in context

Exercise: Fill in the blanks using the words below.

Words: *inset* – *property* – *abbreviation* – *offset* – *clip-path* – *function*

1. The _____ in CSS can restrict which area of an image or element remains visible to the viewer.
 2. When you apply the _____ value, it creates an inner border or indentation inside another shape.
 3. Each CSS _____ provides specific instructions that control how an element looks or behaves.
 4. The term _____ refers to shortening a longer phrase or expression in code to make it simpler.
 5. If the element doesn't align perfectly, you can adjust its position by changing the _____.
 6. A _____ helps create a secondary shape inside another, producing interesting visual effects.
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Reading for Gist and Detail

Step 1 — Gist:

[CSS-Tricks inset\(\)](#).

Answer:

👉 “What is this text mainly about?”

👉 “What does `inset()` do?”

Step 2 — Detail questions:

Reread and answer.

1. What is the `inset()` function used for?
2. Which CSS properties can use `inset()`?
3. How does the author describe the shape created by `inset()`?
4. What kind of values can `inset()` take?

5. *Why is inset() called a shorthand function?*
 6. *What is one example of using inset() in design?*
 7. *What does “masking out” mean?*
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True or False + Correction

Goal: Check reading comprehension + language accuracy.

Read each statement and mark **T (True)** or **F (False)**.

If false, correct it.

1. *inset() is a property that adds color to elements.*
 2. *inset() can define rectangular shapes inside an element.*
 3. *It can only be used with the clip-path property.*
 4. *inset() accepts both pixels and percentages.*
 5. *inset() is a long way to write several separate properties.*
 6. *All browsers support inset().*
 7. *inset() helps control which parts of an element are visible.*
 8. *The article gives examples of how inset() works with clip-path.*
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SESSION 2

Unscramble each one to make a real word (answers are below).

1. IFNNTUOC
2. ENLETEM
3. RPRYTPOE

4. PHAES
5. AMKS
6. PAHTCPIL
7. TFSEOF
8. GATRCNELE
9. SNGEID
10. HTDRASONH
11. TSINE

Extra task: After, write sentences using the words.

Comprehension & Discussion

Part A: Comprehension

1. What does the author mean by “masked out”?
2. How can `inset()` simplify a designer’s work?
3. What’s the difference between `inset()` and using “top, bottom, left, right”?
4. When would you use `inset()` with `offset-path`?
5. What benefits does shorthand code bring to teams?

Part B: Discussion Questions (in pairs or small groups)

- a. Have you ever seen website layouts or images with shapes inside shapes?
 - b. Why do you think web designers use shapes and clipping?
 - c. How does understanding a little technical English help your future?
 - d. Is English for technology different from general English? How?
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Wrap-up

- *Write a short paragraph (80–100 words):*

*“Explain to a friend what the `inset()` function does and why it is useful.”
Use at least **five** of today’s words.*