

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.*