



CSS Website Layout

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Website Layout

A website is often divided into headers, menus, content and a footer:

Header

Navigation Menu

Main Content

Footer

There are tons of different layout designs to choose from. However, the structure above, is one of the most common, and we will take a closer look at it in this tutorial.



menu). It often contains a logo or the website name:

Example

```
.header {  
  background-color: #F1F1F1;  
  text-align: center;  
  padding: 20px;  
}
```

Result

Header

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Navigation Bar

A navigation bar contains a list of links to help visitors navigating through your website:

Example

```
/* The navbar container */  
.topnav {  
  overflow: hidden;
```



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```
.topnav a {  
  float: left;  
  display: block;  
  color: #f2f2f2;  
  text-align: center;  
  padding: 14px 16px;  
  text-decoration: none;  
}  
  
/* Links – change color on hover */  
.topnav a:hover {  
  background-color: #ddd;  
  color: black;  
}
```

Result

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Content

The layout in this section, often depends on the target users. The most common layout is one (or combining them) of the following:

- **1-column** (often used for mobile browsers)
- **2-column** (often used for tablets and laptops)
- **3-column layout** (only used for desktops)

1-column:



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2-column:

3-column:

We will create a 3-column layout, and change it to a 1-column layout on smaller screens:

Example

```
/* Create three equal columns that float next to each other */  
.column {  
  float: left;  
  width: 33.33%;
```



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```
content: "";
display: table;
clear: both;
}

/* Responsive layout – makes the three columns stack on top of each
other instead of next to each other on smaller screens (600px wide or
less) */
@media screen and (max-width: 600px) {
  .column {
    width: 100%;
  }
}
```

Result

Column

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Maecenas sit amet pretium urna. Vivamus venenatis velit nec neque ultricies, eget elementum magna tristique.

Column

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Maecenas sit amet pretium urna. Vivamus venenatis velit nec neque ultricies, eget elementum magna tristique.

Column

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Maecenas sit amet pretium urna. Vivamus venenatis velit nec neque ultricies, eget elementum magna tristique.



Tip: To create a 2-column layout, change the width to 50%. To create a 4-column layout, use 25%, etc.

Tip: Do you wonder how the @media rule works? [Read more about it in our CSS Media Queries chapter.](#)

Tip: A more modern way of creating column layouts, is to use CSS Flexbox. However, it is not supported in Internet Explorer 10 and earlier versions. If you require IE6-10 support, use floats (as shown above).

To learn more about the Flexible Box Layout Module, [read our CSS Flexbox chapter.](#)

Unequal Columns

The main content is the biggest and the most important part of your site.

It is common with **unequal** column widths, so that most of the space is reserved for the main content. The side content (if any) is often used as an alternative navigation or to specify information relevant to the main content. Change the widths as you like, only remember that it should add up to 100% in total:

Example

```
.column {  
  float: left;  
}  
  
/* Left and right column */  
.column.side {  
  width: 25%;  
}  
  
/* Middle column */
```



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```
/* Responsive layout – makes the three columns stack on top of each
other instead of next to each other */
@media screen and (max-width: 600px) {
  .column.side, .column.middle {
    width: 100%;
  }
}
```

Result

Side

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit...

Main Content

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Maecenas sit amet pretium urna. Vivamus venenatis velit nec neque ultricies, eget elementum magna tristique. Quisque vehicula, risus eget aliquam placerat, purus leo tincidunt eros, eget luctus quam orci in velit. Praesent scelerisque tortor sed accumsan convallis.

Side

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit...

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Example

```
.footer {  
  background-color: #F1F1F1;  
  text-align: center;  
  padding: 10px;  
}
```

Result

Footer

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Responsive Website Layout

By using some of the CSS code above, we have created a responsive website layout, which varies between two columns and full-width columns depending on screen width:



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My Website

Resize the browser window to see the effect.

[Link](#)[Link](#)[Link](#)[Link](#)

TITLE HEADING

Title description, Dec 7, 2017

Image

About Me

Image

Some text
about me in
culpa qui
officia

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