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| absolute | relative |
| the element is positioned relative to its normal position. | the element is positioned absolutely to its first positioned parent. |
| The element is positioned nearest to the first relatively or absolutely positioned parent element. | When position :relative is given to an element without any other attributes (top, bottom, left, right) nothing will happen. |
| When there is no parent element the absolutely positioned element is positioned directly to the HTML page itself. | The child of this element can be positioned within this block only. So position :relative has its limitations. |