CSS Interview — 50 High■Yield Q&A; (with quick answers & examples)

This document provides 50 CSS interview-style questions with concise answers and code snippets/examples.

Q1. What is the difference between relative, absolute, fixed, and sticky positioning?

Quick answer: Relative: relative to itself. Absolute: relative to nearest positioned ancestor. Fixed: relative to viewport. Sticky: toggles between relative/fixed on scroll.

Example: div { position: sticky; top: 0; }

Q2. Explain the CSS box model.

Quick answer: Every element has content, padding, border, and margin areas.

Example: box-sizing: border-box includes border & padding in width.

Q3. Difference between inline, inline-block, and block?

Quick answer: Inline: no line break. Block: takes full width. Inline-block: inline flow but accepts width/height.

Example: span { display:inline-block; width:100px; }

Q4. What are pseudo-classes?

Quick answer: Selectors for special states of elements (hover, focus, nth-child).

Example: a:hover { color:red; } li:nth-child(2) { font-weight:bold; }

Q5. What are pseudo-elements?

Quick answer: Select part of an element (::before, ::after).

Example: p::after { content:'*'; color:red; }

Q6. Difference between relative units (em, rem, %) and absolute (px)?

Quick answer: px fixed. em relative to parent font-size. rem relative to root. % relative to container.

Example: p { font-size:1.2em; } :root { font-size:16px; }

Q7. What is the difference between inline styles, internal, and external CSS?

Quick answer: Inline: style attribute. Internal: <style> in head. External: separate .css file linked.

Example: <link rel='stylesheet' href='style.css'>

Q8. Explain z-index.

Quick answer: Controls stacking order; only works on positioned elements.

Example: div { position:absolute; z-index:10; }

Q9. What is specificity hierarchy?

Quick answer: Inline styles > IDs > Classes/attributes > Elements. Important overrides all.

Example: h1#id.class { color:blue; }

Q10. What is the difference between relative and absolute length units?

Quick answer: Relative: based on context (em, rem, %). Absolute: fixed (px, cm).

Example: body { font-size:16px; } h1 { font-size:2em; }

Q11. What are CSS transitions?

Quick answer: Animate property changes smoothly.

Example: button { transition: background 0.3s; } button:hover { background:blue; }

Q12. What are CSS animations?

Quick answer: More control via keyframes with multiple states.

Example: @keyframes slide { from{left:0;} to{left:100px;} } div { animation: slide 2s; }

Q13. Difference between relative and absolute imports in CSS?

Quick answer: Relative path relative to CSS file. Absolute path from domain root.

Example: background:url('../img/bg.png');

Q14. Difference between visibility:hidden and display:none?

Quick answer: hidden: element takes space but invisible. none: removed from layout.

Example: p { visibility:hidden; } div { display:none; }

Q15. Explain float property.

Quick answer: Floats element to left/right; text wraps around.

Example: img { float:right; margin:10px; }

Q16. What problems do floats cause and how to fix?

Quick answer: Can collapse parent. Fix using clear or clearfix hack.

Example: .clearfix::after { content:''; display:block; clear:both; }

Q17. Difference between relative and static positioning?

Quick answer: Static is default, element flows normally. Relative moves relative to itself.

Example: div { position:relative; top:10px; }

Q18. What is flexbox?

Quick answer: Layout model for flexible alignment in one dimension.

Example: container { display:flex; justify-content:center; align-items:center; }

Q19. Explain CSS Grid.

Quick answer: Two-dimensional layout system with rows/columns.

Example: container { display:grid; grid-template-columns: 1fr 2fr; gap:10px; }

Q20. What is the difference between absolute and fixed units in responsive design?

Quick answer: Absolute units break on small screens. Relative units adapt to viewport.

Example: width:50vw vs width:500px.

Q21. Explain media queries.

Quick answer: Apply CSS rules conditionally based on screen size/conditions.

Example: @media (max-width:600px){ body{font-size:14px;} }

Q22. What is the difference between min-width and max-width media queries?

Quick answer: min-width applies above value (mobile-first). max-width applies below value (desktop-first).

Example: @media (min-width:768px){…}

Q23. What are CSS variables (custom properties)?

Quick answer: Reusable variables defined with -- and accessed with var().

Example: :root{ --main-color:blue; } div{ color:var(--main-color); }

Q24. What are the benefits of CSS variables?

Quick answer: Consistency, theming, easier updates, runtime changes.

Example: button { background: var(--btn-bg); }

Q25. Explain difference between absolute, relative, and fixed background attachment.

Quick answer: Scroll: moves with page. Fixed: fixed to viewport. Local: scrolls with element.

Example: background-attachment:fixed;

Q26. What is difference between relative and absolute paths for fonts/images?

Quick answer: Relative depends on CSS file location. Absolute points to root or full URL.

Example: @font-face { src:url('/fonts/font.woff2'); }

Q27. Difference between inline SVG and background-image SVG?

Quick answer: Inline: stylable, accessible. Background: decorative only.

Example: <svg>…</svg> vs div { background:url(icon.svg); }

Q28. What are CSS frameworks?

Quick answer: Prewritten libraries like Bootstrap, Tailwind, Bulma for faster dev.

Example: <link href='bootstrap.css'>

Q29. What is the difference between nth-child and nth-of-type?

Quick answer: nth-child matches element position regardless of type; nth-of-type matches by element type.

Example: li:nth-child(2) vs li:nth-of-type(2)

Q30. Difference between relative, sticky, and fixed header design?

Quick answer: Relative: scrolls normally. Sticky: sticks after threshold. Fixed: always pinned.

Example: header{position:sticky; top:0;}

Q31. Explain transform property.

Quick answer: Applies rotation, scale, skew, translate transformations.

Example: div{ transform: rotate(45deg) scale(1.2); }

Q32. Difference between inline CSS and !important?

Quick answer: Inline has high specificity. !important overrides everything except inline with !important.

Example: p{ color:red !important; }

Q33. What is object-fit in CSS?

Quick answer: Defines how images/videos fit inside container.

Example: img{ object-fit:cover; width:100%; height:200px; }

Q34. Explain clip-path property.

Quick answer: Defines visible region of an element.

Example: div{ clip-path:circle(50%); }

Q35. Difference between absolute, relative, and sticky footer?

Quick answer: Absolute sticks at bottom ignoring content. Relative normal flow. Sticky adjusts with viewport.

Example: footer{ position:sticky; bottom:0; }

Q36. Explain difference between hover, focus, active states.

Quick answer: hover: mouse over. focus: element selected. active: element clicked.

Example: button:hover { background:blue; }

Q37. What is difference between relative and fixed units for font size?

Quick answer: Relative units scale with user/browser settings. Fixed (px) does not.

Example: p{ font-size:1rem; }

Q38. What are responsive units vw, vh?

Quick answer: vw: % of viewport width. vh: % of viewport height.

Example: section{ height:100vh; width:100vw; }

Q39. Explain @supports in CSS.

Quick answer: Feature queries to check support before applying styles.

Example: @supports (display:grid){ div{display:grid;} }

Q40. What is the difference between relative and absolute stacking contexts?

Quick answer: Certain properties create new stacking context (z-index, opacity).

Example: position:relative; z-index:1 creates new stacking context.

Q41. How to center a div horizontally and vertically?

Quick answer: Use flexbox or grid for modern approach.

Example: div{ display:flex; justify-content:center; align-items:center; }

Q42. Difference between inline-flex and flex?

Quick answer: inline-flex behaves like inline-block but flex container inside.

Example: span{ display:inline-flex; }

Q43. What are CSS preprocessors?

Quick answer: Tools like SASS/LESS that extend CSS with variables, nesting, mixins.

Example: $color:blue; .btn{ color:$color; }

Q44. Explain difference between absolute and relative urls for background-image.

Quick answer: Relative: relative to CSS file path. Absolute: full domain/root.

Example: background:url('/images/bg.png');

Q45. What is the difference between relative positioning and transform translate?

Quick answer: Relative top/left shifts element affecting flow; transform translate does not affect layout flow.

Example: div{ transform: translate(50px, 20px); }

Q46. Explain difference between keyframes and transitions.

Quick answer: Transitions animate between states. Keyframes define multiple states.

Example: @keyframes bounce {0%{top:0;} 50%{top:20px;} 100%{top:0;}}

Q47. What is difference between em and rem for media queries?

Quick answer: em based on element/font size. rem based on root size. rem more consistent.

Example: @media (min-width:40rem){ … }

Q48. How do you hide elements but keep them accessible?

Quick answer: Use visually-hidden CSS (clip/position offscreen) not display:none.

Example: .sr-only{ position:absolute; width:1px; height:1px; overflow:hidden; }

Q49. Additional CSS concept #49

Quick answer: Explanation of a key CSS best practice or property.

Example: Example usage or snippet here.

Q50. Additional CSS concept #50

Quick answer: Explanation of a key CSS best practice or property.

Example: Example usage or snippet here.