Tailwind CSS Visual Cheat Sheet
Junior-Friendly Notes

1 Responsive Variants

Tailwind is **mobile-first**. Classes apply to the specified breakpoint and **UP**. Start with the base class (mobile), then layer on variants.

Pattern

- `w-full`: Default (Mobile)

- `sm:w-3/4`: Tablet & up

- `lg:w-1/2`: Desktop & up

```
<div className="
  bg-blue-500
  sm:bg-purple-500
  lg:bg-indigo-600
  w-full sm:w-3/4 lg:w-1/2
">
  Resizes & changes color
</div>
```

2 Layout: Flex & Grid

Control how items sit next to each other.

Flex Direction

```
<div className="flex flex-col md:flex-row gap-4">
  <div>Item 1</div>
  <div>Item 2</div>
</div>
```

Common Helpers

- **mx-auto**: Centers a block horizontally (margin-left/right: auto).

- **justify-between**: Pushes items to far edges.

- **items-center**: Aligns items vertically in the center.

3 Parent Spacing (Space-y)

Adds `margin-top` to every child *except* the first one. Perfect for stacks.

```
<div className="space-y-4">
  <Card /> <!-- No margin -->
  <Card /> <!-- Has margin-top -->
  <Card /> <!-- Has margin-top -->
</div>
```

4 Interactive States

Styles that apply on user interaction.

```
<button className="
  bg-blue-600
  hover:bg-blue-700
  disabled:opacity-50
  disabled:cursor-not-allowed
  transition-colors
">
  Submit
</button>
```

5 Inputs & Focus Rings

Replace the default browser outline with a custom ring.

```
<input className="
  border-gray-300 rounded-lg
  focus:outline-none
  focus:ring-2 focus:ring-blue-500
  focus:border-transparent
" />
```

Why border-transparent? Prevents the grey border from clashing with the blue glow.

6 Absolute Positioning

The "Eye Icon" Pattern for inputs.

```
<div className="relative">
  <input className="w-full pr-10..." />
  <button className="
    absolute right-3 top-1/2
    -translate-y-1/2
    text-gray-400
  ">
    <Icon />
  </button>
</div>
```

Logic: `top-1/2` pushes the top edge to 50%, `-translate-y-1/2` pulls it back up by half its height to center perfectly.

7 Cards & Borders

The standard dashboard component look.

```
<div className="
  bg-white rounded-xl
  border border-gray-200
  overflow-hidden
">
  <div className="border-b border-gray-200 p-4">
    Header
  </div>
  <div className="p-4">Body</div>
</div>
```

overflow-hidden: Clips inner corners so children don't spill out of the rounded container.

8 Colors & Opacity

- **Standard:** `bg-blue-600`

- **Opacity:** `bg-blue-600/20` (20% opacity)

- **Arbitrary:** `bg-[#0F1E2E]` (Exact Hex)

9 Badges & Pills

Status indicators.

```
<span className="
  px-3 py-1 rounded-full
  text-sm font-medium
  bg-emerald-100 text-emerald-700
">
  Active
</span>
```

10 Conditional Logic

Using Template Literals in React.

```
<div className={`
  p-4 rounded-xl transition-all
  ${isActive
    ? 'bg-green-500 text-white'
    : 'bg-gray-100 text-gray-600'}
`}>
  {isActive ? 'Active' : 'Inactive'}
</div>
```

11 Utility Combos

The Avatar Circle

```
w-12 h-12 rounded-full
flex items-center justify-center
```

The List Item Row

```
flex items-center justify-between
hover:bg-gray-50
```

12 Misc Helpers

- **shrink-0**: Prevents icons from getting squished in a flex row.

- **divide-y**: Automatically adds borders between children.

- **cursor-not-allowed**: Shows the "no" symbol on hover.

- **leading-tight**: tightens line height for large headings.

Quick Mental Model:
Start mobile-first → Layer on `sm:` and `lg:` → Use `flex`/`grid` + `gap` → Add `space-y` for stacks.