**HTML Elements: Block-level vs Inline Elements**

**A. Block-level Elements**

**Definition:**

* Block-level elements are elements that **take the full width** of their parent container by default and start on a **new line**.
* They **stack vertically**.

**Characteristics:**

1. Always start on a **new line**.
2. Default width is **100%** of parent container (unless specified otherwise with CSS).
3. Can contain **other block-level elements or inline elements**.
4. Used to **structure the layout** of the page.

**Common Examples:**

* <div> – Generic container for content, used for layout and styling.
* <p> – Paragraph text.
* <h1> – <h6> – Headings (h1 = largest, h6 = smallest).
* <ul> / <ol> – Unordered and ordered lists.
* <li> – List items.
* <section>, <article>, <header>, <footer>, <main>, <nav> – Semantic HTML5 block elements.

**Example:**

<h1>Heading 1</h1>

<p>This is a paragraph. It takes the full width.</p>

<div>

<p>Inside a div block.</p>

</div>

**Why Block-level Elements are used:**

* To structure content into **sections and containers**.
* To control **layout and spacing** in combination with CSS.

**B. Inline Elements**

**Definition:**

* Inline elements only **take as much width as their content**.
* They **do not start on a new line**; they flow **horizontally** with other content.

**Characteristics:**

1. Do **not start on a new line**.
2. Width & height are determined by the **content** (cannot set width/height easily unless using CSS display:block or inline-block).
3. Typically used to **style parts of text** or small content pieces.
4. Cannot contain block-level elements (except when using CSS tricks).

**Common Examples:**

* <span> – Generic inline container for styling.
* <a> – Hyperlink.
* <strong> – Bold text.
* <em> – Italic text.
* <img> – Image (inline by default).
* <b> / <i> – Bold / Italic text.

**Example:**

<p>This is a <strong>strong</strong> word inside a paragraph.</p>

<p>Click <a href="#">here</a> for more info.</p>

**Why Inline Elements are used:**

* To **style small pieces of content** without affecting the flow of surrounding elements.
* For **text formatting, links, inline images**, etc.

**Interview Tips**

1. Always remember **block = new line, full width**; **inline = same line, content width**.
2. Be ready to **explain why to use <div> vs <span>**.
   * <div>: Layout & grouping large sections.
   * <span>: Styling small text or inline content.
3. Know **CSS tricks** to change display (block, inline, inline-block) if asked.
4. Give **real-life examples** when asked:
   * Navigation bars often use <ul> (block) + <li> (block) + <a> (inline).