



**Welcome to  
lecture 8!**

# Agenda

## Session Objectives

- Review Homework
- Review CSS concepts
- Flexbox
  - Understanding Flexbox
  - Creating Flexible Layouts
  - Making Layouts Responsive with Media Queries
- Quiz
- Homework (will be shared by batch coordinator from today!)



**NO  
homework review!**



# Preview: designing menus



Cafe Coffee Day

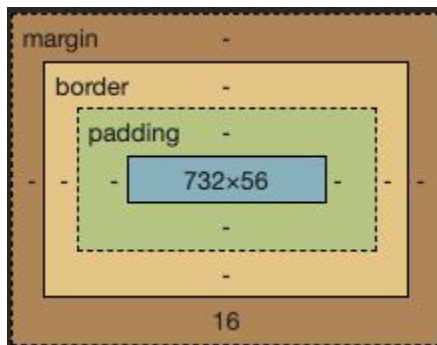
District Cafe Bakery



# **Prerequisites: A recap of CSS**

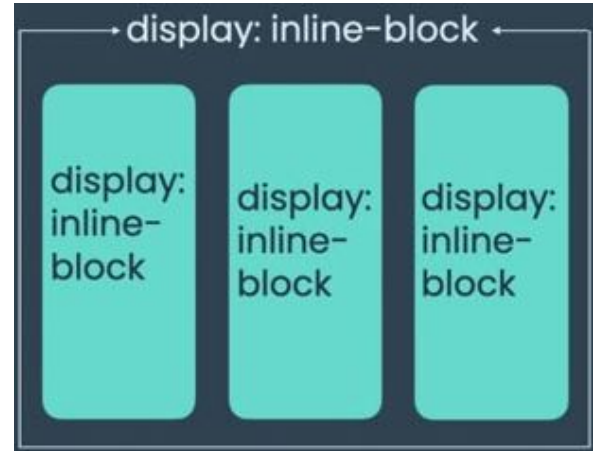
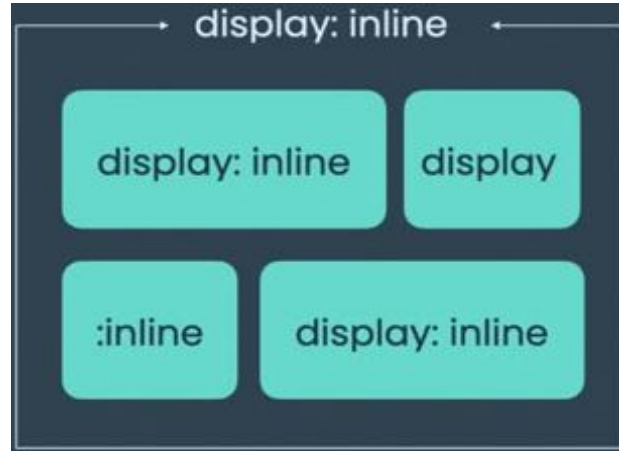
# The CSS Box Model

- Recall:
  - Every HTML element is treated as a box
  - The Box Model consists of
    - Content: The actual content (text, image)
    - Padding: Space inside the element
    - Border: A line surrounding the padding and content
    - Margin: Space outside the element



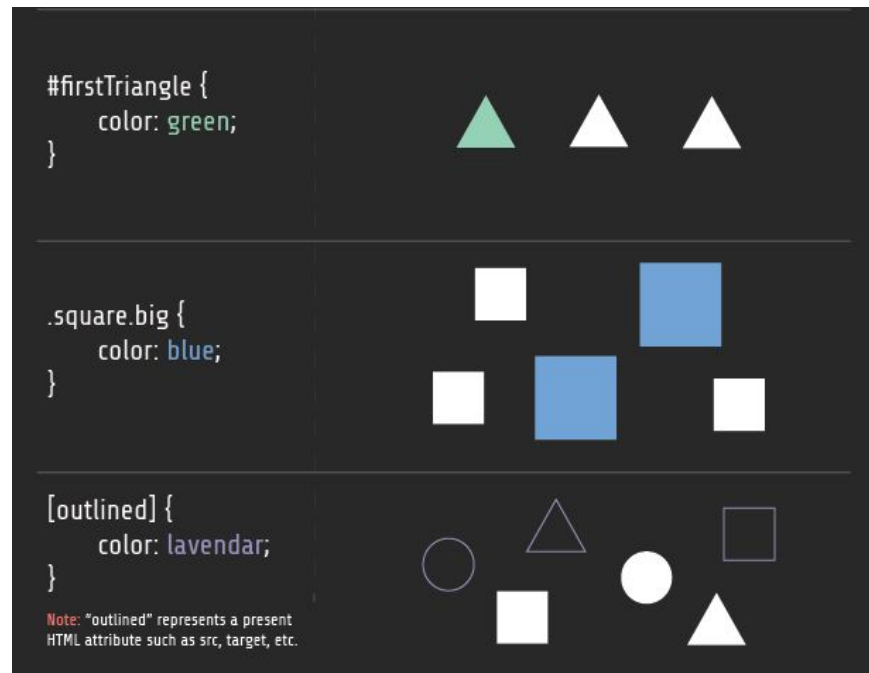
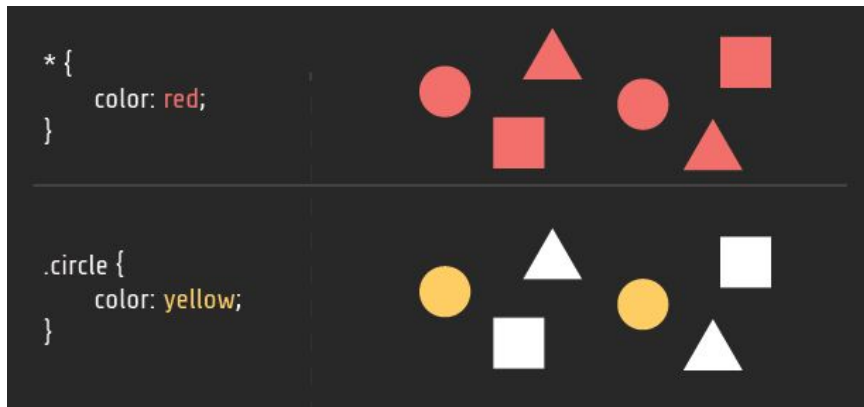
# Element Flow: display Property

- Recall
  - The display property determines how an element is rendered
- Key values
  - block: Element starts on a new line and takes up full width. (e.g., <div>, <p>, <h1>)
  - inline: Element flows with surrounding content. (e.g., <span>, <a>, <img>)
  - inline-block: Element is like inline but allows setting width and height



# CSS Selectors

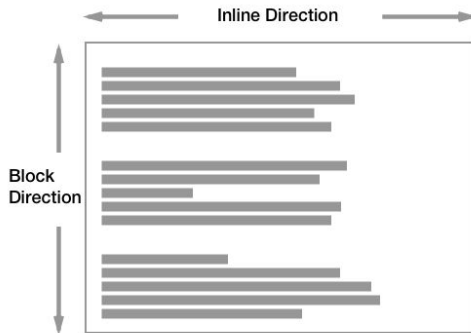
- Recall
  - Selectors are used to target HTML elements for styling
- Types of selectors
  - Element (Tag) Selector: p, h1, div
  - Class Selector: .menu-item, .price
  - ID Selector: #menu, #submit-button





# How Elements Render by Default

- Recall
  - Normal Flow is how browsers lay out elements by default
  - Block-level elements stack vertically
    - Width and height can be set
    - Can contain text , data, inline elements, or other block level elements
  - Inline elements flow horizontally
    - Width and height is determined by the content
    - Can contain text (paragraph, anchor tags, etc) or other inline elements
- Flexbox changes this normal flow





# **Introduction to Flexbox**

# Introduction to Flexbox

- What is flexbox?
  - Also known as flexible box layout module
  - A modern CSS layout model for organizing elements on a webpage
  - Allows browsers to display HTML elements as flexible box models
- Core Principles
  - Single Axis
    - Each flex container manages layout on a single axis (row or column) at a time
    - In fact, it cannot lay out box models in a row and column at the same time
  - Container & Items
    - A container may use flexbox items. As a result, the elements inside become flex items
  - Flexible Ordering
    - Use flexbox based properties to rearrange items without altering the HTML

# What problem did it solve?

- **Easy Alignment**

- Before: Centering or aligning elements often required float hacks, negative margins, or display: table-cell
- With Flexbox: Use properties like justify-content and align-items to easily align items horizontally or vertically

- **Rigid Sizing & Distribution**

- Before: Manually juggling fixed widths, percentage widths, or complex media queries to handle changing layouts
- With Flexbox: Harness flex-grow, flex-shrink, and flex-basis to dynamically distribute available space and respond to container resizing

- **Reordering Content Without Altering HTML**

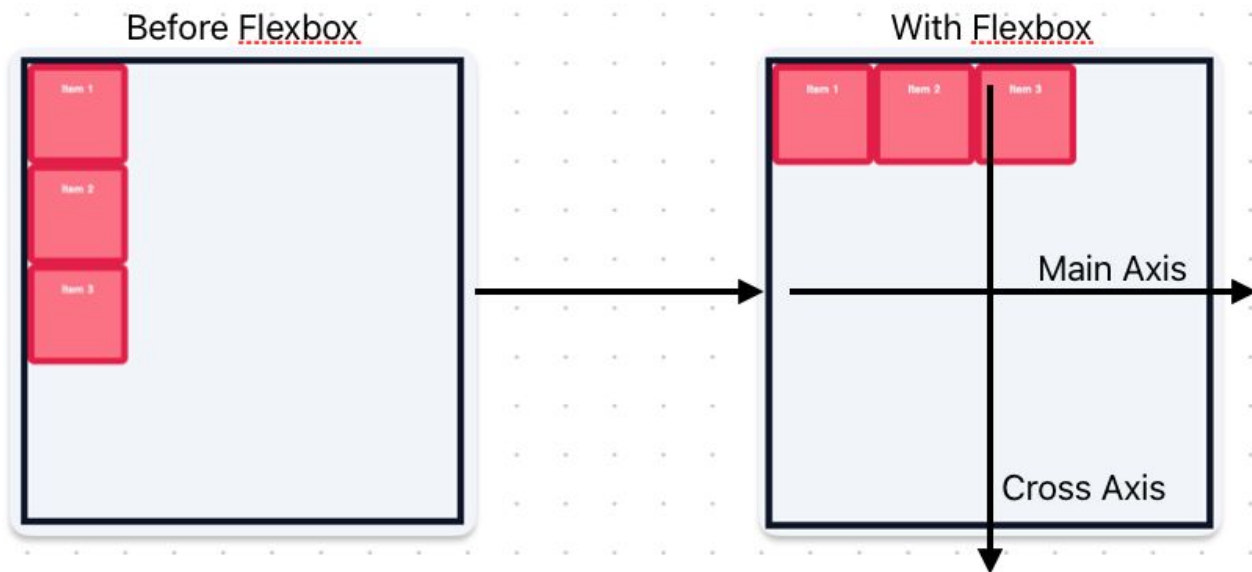
- Before: Changing element order typically meant editing the HTML source or using absolute positioning.
- With Flexbox: The order property (and row-reverse / column-reverse) allows rearranging items purely via CSS—improving maintainability

- **Built-In Responsiveness**

- Before: Maintaining multiple media queries with complex rules for different screen sizes.
- With Flexbox: Flex items adapt automatically to container space; often fewer (or simpler) media queries are needed

# Creating a Flexbox Container

- The `display: flex;` property turns an element into a Flexbox container
- Direct children of this container become flex items
- The layout of these flex items is controlled by Flexbox properties
- Example:





# Setting the Main Axis

- The `flex-direction` property sets the main axis
  - Defines the direction flex items are placed in the container
- Values
  - `row` (default): Items are placed in a row (horizontally).
  - `column`: Items are placed in a column (vertically).
  - `row-reverse`: Items are placed in a row, reversed.
  - `column-reverse`: Items are placed in a column, reversed

# Aligning Items Along the Main Axis

- The justify-content aligns flex items along the main axis
  - Defines the direction flex items are placed in the container
- Values
  - flex-start (default): Items are packed to the start of the main axis
  - flex-end: Items are packed to the end of the main axis
  - center: Items are centered along the main axis
  - space-between: Items are evenly distributed; the first item is at the start, the last at the end
  - space-around: Items are evenly distributed with equal space around each item
  - space-evenly: Items are evenly distributed with equal space between items, at the start, and at the end

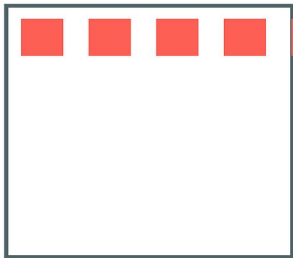
# Aligning Items Along the Cross Axis

- The align-items aligns flex items along the *cross* axis
  - Defines the direction flex items are placed in the container
- Values
  - stretch (default): Items are stretched to fill the container's height (or width, depending on flex-direction).
  - flex-start: Items are aligned to the start of the cross axis.
  - flex-end: Items are aligned to the end of the cross axis.
  - center: Items are centered along the cross axis.
  - baseline: Items are aligned to their baselines

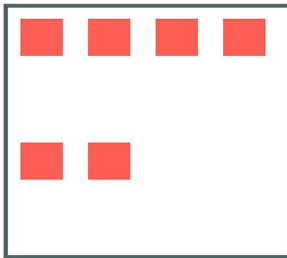
# Handling Overflow

- What's overflow?
  - Situation where the content exceeds the containers height, usually set via the “height” property
  - Can be managed in CSS via the “overflow” property
- flex-wrap **property controls what happens when flex items overflow the container**
  - nowrap (default): Items are forced into a single line
  - wrap: Items wrap onto multiple lines
  - wrap-reverse: Items wrap onto multiple lines in reverse order

**display: flex;  
flex-wrap: nowrap;  
min-width: 40px;**



**display: flex;  
flex-wrap: wrap;  
min-width: 40px;**



# Advanced Container Control

- align-content Aligns lines of flex items when there is extra space in the cross axis and items wrap
  - When to use: Only effective when flex-wrap: wrap or flex-wrap: wrap-reverse is used and the flex container has multiple lines of items.
- flex-flow
  - A shorthand for flex-direction and flex-wrap
- Flexbox and auto margins
  - This can be used as an alignment techniques (e.g., pushing an item to the far right)
  - Example: Using margin-left: auto to push a navigation item to the right



A top-down view of a wooden desk. In the center is a large white sheet of paper. In the top-left corner of the paper is a small wooden pencil holder filled with various pens and pencils. In the top-right corner of the desk is a white mug filled with a frothy beverage. The text "Let's Code" is centered on the white paper.

**Let's Code**

# Exercise

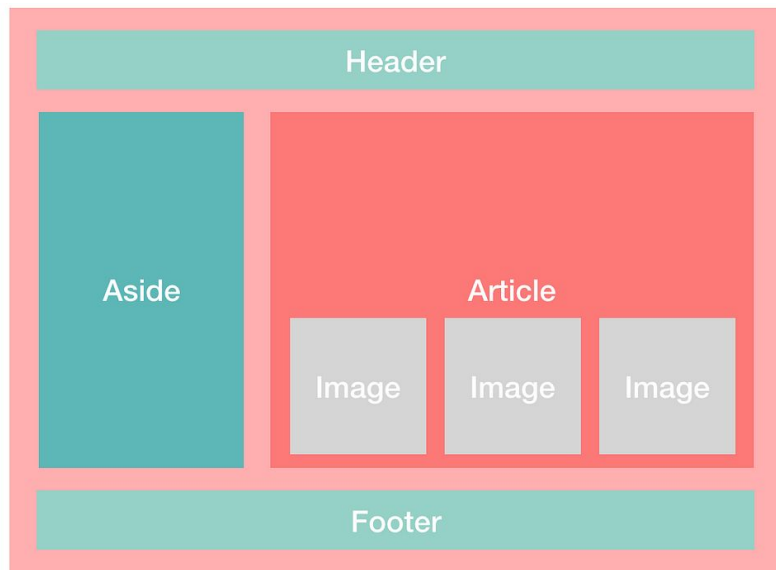
- I'll share the restaurant menu code (HTML & CSS)
- Your task
  - Apply `display: flex` to the `.menu-items` container within each `.menu-category`
  - Try arranging the menu items in a row



# Creating Layouts with Flexbox

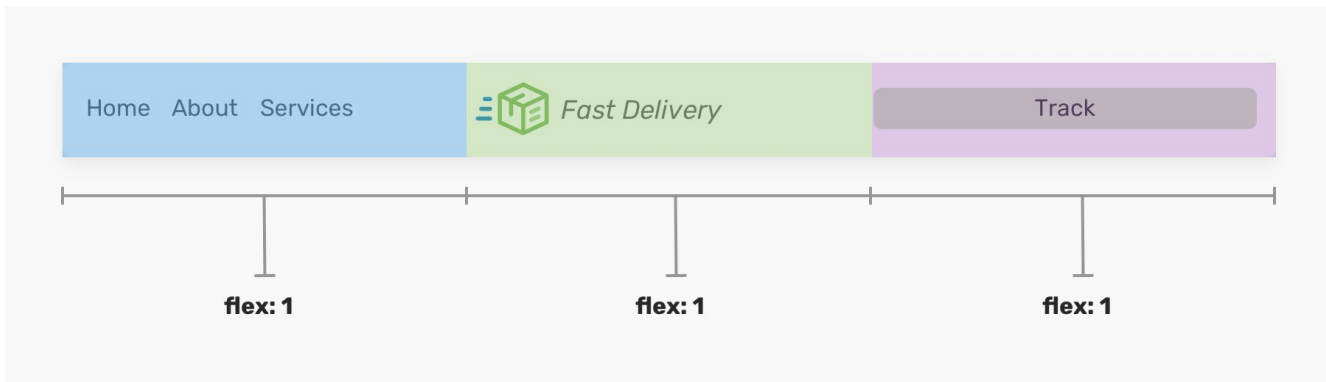
# Beyond Item Arrangement

- Flexbox is not just for small components; it can structure entire pages
- Common layout patterns
  - Header and Footer
  - Sidebar and Content
  - Grid-like structures



# Flexbox for Header and Footer

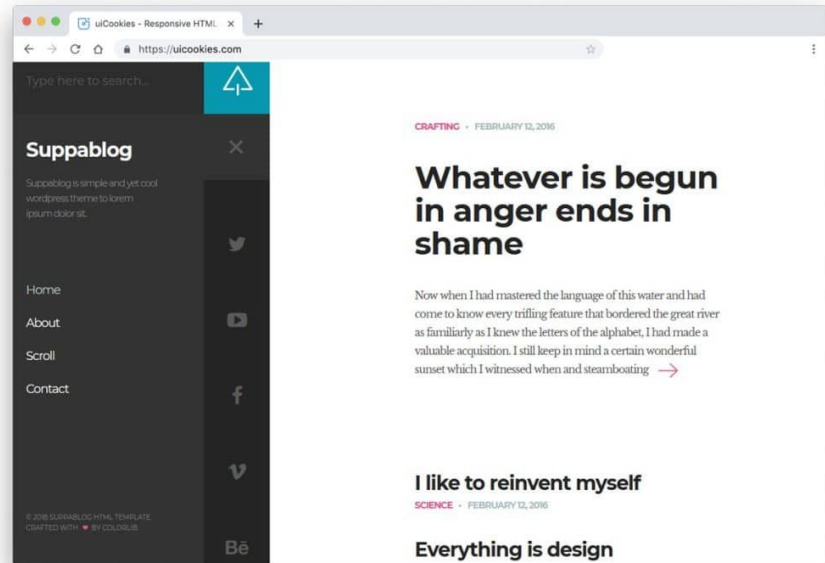
- Use Flexbox to:
  - Position navigation elements in the header
  - Align copyright information in the footer
  - Create a sticky footer that stays at the bottom of the page





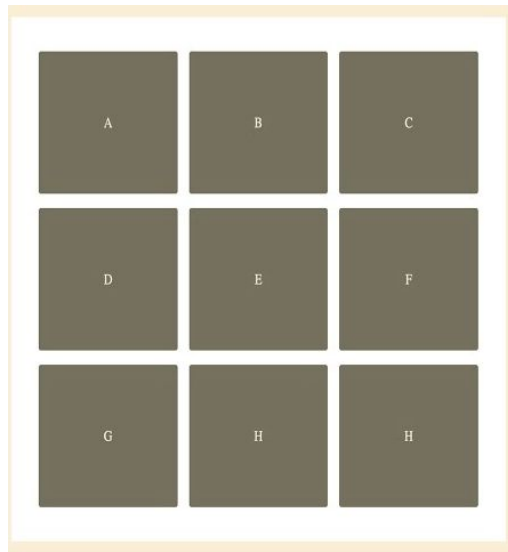
# Flexbox for Sidebar and Content

- Use Flexbox to:
  - Create a two-column layout for the main content and sidebar
  - Control the width ratio of the sidebar and content area
  - Make the sidebar fixed or scrollable



# Flexbox for Grid-like Layouts

- Flexbox can be used to create grid-like layouts
  - Note: CSS Grid is another way to layout elements and is more powerful for complex grids. We'll cover this later.
- Use flex-wrap and flex-basis to control item distribution in a "grid."
- Use Flexbox to:
  - Create a two-column layout for the main content and sidebar
  - Control the width ratio of the sidebar and content area
  - Make the sidebar fixed or scrollable





**Let's Code**

# Exercise: Restaurant Menu Layout

- Using the existing HTML and CSS
- Try to use `display: flex` and related properties to structure the `<header>` and `<div class="menu">` elements
- Aim for a basic layout where the navigation is horizontal and the menu categories are arranged in columns
- Use `flex-wrap` and `flex-basis` to control item distribution in a "grid."
- Use Flexbox to:
  - Create a two-column layout for the main content and sidebar
  - Control the width ratio of the sidebar and content area
  - Make the sidebar fixed or scrollable

# Flexbox: Best Practices

- Use Flexbox for layout, not just alignment
- Understand the main axis and cross axis
- Consider flex-wrap for responsiveness
- Use flex-basis for content sizing
- Test across browsers (Chrome, Safari, etc) and screen types (desktop, mobile etc)





# Media Queries

# Introduction to Media Queries

- Media Queries allow you to apply CSS styles based on device characteristics
- Key characteristics
  - Viewport width and height
  - Device orientation (portrait or landscape)
  - Resolution (pixel density)
  - Media type (screen, print, speech)
- Essential for creating responsive designs that adapt to different screens

# How to Write Media Queries

- The @media rule is used to define Media Queries
- **Basic syntax:** @media (media feature) { /\* CSS rules \*/ }
  - Common media features
    - max-width: Maximum width of the viewport.
    - min-width: Minimum width of the viewport.
    - orientation: portrait or landscape.
- **Media Types**
  - screen: For computer screens, tablets, smartphones, etc.
  - print: For printed documents.
  - speech: For screen readers.
  - all: For all media type
- **Common media features**
  - max-width: Maximum width of the viewport. Eg: @media screen and (max-width: 768px) { ... }
  - min-width: Minimum width of the viewport. Eg: @media screen and (min-width: 1024px) { ... }
  - orientation: portrait or landscape. Eg: @media screen and (orientation: portrait) { ... }

# Media Queries: Combining Features

- Combine multiple media features using logical operators:
  - and: Both conditions must be true
    - Example: @media screen and (max-width: 768px) and (orientation: portrait) { ... }
  - , (comma): Either condition can be true. (OR)
    - Example: @media screen and (max-width: 480px), screen and (orientation: landscape) { ... }
  - not: Negates a condition
    - Example: @media not all and (orientation: landscape) { ... }

# Best Practices for Breakpoints

- Breakpoints are the screen widths where your layout changes
- Common breakpoint strategies
  - Mobile-first: Start with mobile styles and add styles for larger screens
  - Major devices: Target common screen sizes (e.g., phone, tablet, desktop)
- Common Breakpoint Examples (in pixels):
  - Small phones: 320px - 480px
  - Phones: 481px - 767px
  - Tablets: 768px - 1023px
  - Desktops: 1024px and up
- Avoid too many breakpoints

# Media Queries: Units (em vs. px)

- em units are relative to the font size of the parent element
- px units are absolute pixels
- Using em for Media Queries can create more scalable and accessible designs
  - Allows layouts to adapt if the user changes their default font size in the browser
  - Provides better consistency across devices and zoom levels
- Example: If the base font size is 16px, then 1em = 16px, 2em = 32px, etc

A top-down view of a wooden desk. In the center is a large white sheet of paper. In the top-left corner of the paper is a small wooden pencil holder containing several pens and pencils. In the top-right corner of the desk is a white mug filled with coffee. The text "Let's Code" is centered on the white paper.

**Let's Code**

# Let's Code!

- Using the existing menu code:
  - Add a Media Query to change the layout when the screen width is less than 768px
- Try:
  - Making the menu categories stack vertically instead of being side-by-side.
  - Increasing the font size of the menu titles for better mobile readability."



# Media Queries: Advanced Techniques

- **Using em for breakpoints**
  - Add a Media Query to change the layout when the screen width is less than 768px
- **srcset attribute for responsive images**
  - Serve different image sizes based on screen resolution.
  - Improves page load times on smaller devices
- **CSS variables with Media Queries**
  - Change CSS variables at breakpoints for more dynamic styling
  - Example:
    - `--main-font-size: 16px;`
      - Declares a CSS variable that can set the font size for your text to 16 pixels
    - `@media (max-width: 768px) { --main-font-size: 14px; }`
      - For a device size less than or equal to 768 pixels, the font size is now reduced to 14 pixels. Note: this syntax isn't complete!
    - `body { font-size: var(--main-font-size); }`
      - The declared variable is now applied to the HTML body



**Quiz!**

# Question 1

- Which CSS property is used to enable Flexbox on a container element?
  - A) display: grid;
  - B) float: flex;
  - C) display: flex;
  - D) flex-layout: true;

Correct Answer: C

## Question 2

- Which flex-direction value arranges flex items vertically in a column?
  - A) row
  - B) column
  - C) row-reverse
  - D) vertical

Correct Answer: B

# Question 3

- Which CSS property aligns flex items along the main axis?
  - A) align-items
  - B) justify-content
  - C) align-content
  - D) place-content

Correct Answer: B

# Question 4

- What does the flex-wrap: wrap; property do?
  - A) Prevents flex items from wrapping to the next line.
  - B) Forces flex items to wrap to the next line.
  - C) Allows flex items to wrap onto multiple lines.
  - D) Reverses the order of flex items.

Correct Answer: C

# Question 5

- Which value of the align-items property aligns flex items to the bottom of the flex container?
  - A) flex-start
  - B) flex-end
  - C) center
  - D) stretch

Correct Answer: B

# Question 6

- Which @media feature targets a maximum viewport width
  - A) min-width
  - B) max-height
  - C) max-width
  - D) min-height

Correct Answer: C



# Question 7

- Which media type is used for printed documents?
  - A) screen
  - B) all
  - C) speech
  - D) print

Correct Answer: D

# Question 8

- Which logical operator in Media Queries requires both conditions to be true?
  - A) and
  - B) or
  - C) , (comma)
  - D) not

Correct Answer: A

# Question 8

- What is a common breakpoint range for tablets?
  - A) 768px - 1023px
  - B) 481px - 767px
  - C) 320px - 480px
  - D) 1024px and up

Correct Answer: A

# Question 8

- Why are em units often preferred over px units in Media Queries?
  - A) em units are faster to render.
  - B) em units are absolute.
  - C) em units are relative to the viewport width.
  - D) em units are relative to the font size, providing better scalability and accessibility.

Correct Answer: D

# Homework: Your Menu Challenge

- Task: Design a responsive digital menu for a restaurant of your choice
- Requirements
  - Include at least 3 menu categories (e.g., Appetizers, Main Courses, Drinks)
  - For each category, display at least 4 menu items (dish name, description, price, image - optional).
  - Use Flexbox to structure the menu layout
  - Use Media Queries to make the menu adapt to different screen sizes (mobile, tablet, desktop).
- Bonus
  - Add a navigation bar to switch between categories (hint: using anchor)

# References

- Essential Resources
  - Mozilla Developer Network: [CSS Media Queries](#) and [CSS Flexible Box Layout](#)
- Additional Resources
  - CSS-Tricks: [A Complete Guide to Flexbox](#)
  - FreeCodeCamp: [CSS Flexbox Guide](#)