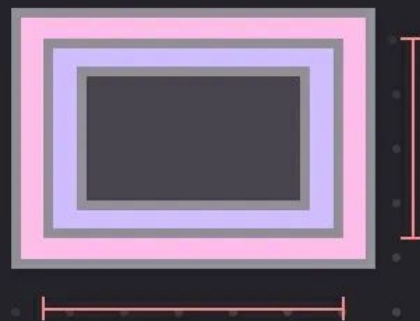# CSS Box Sizing Explained
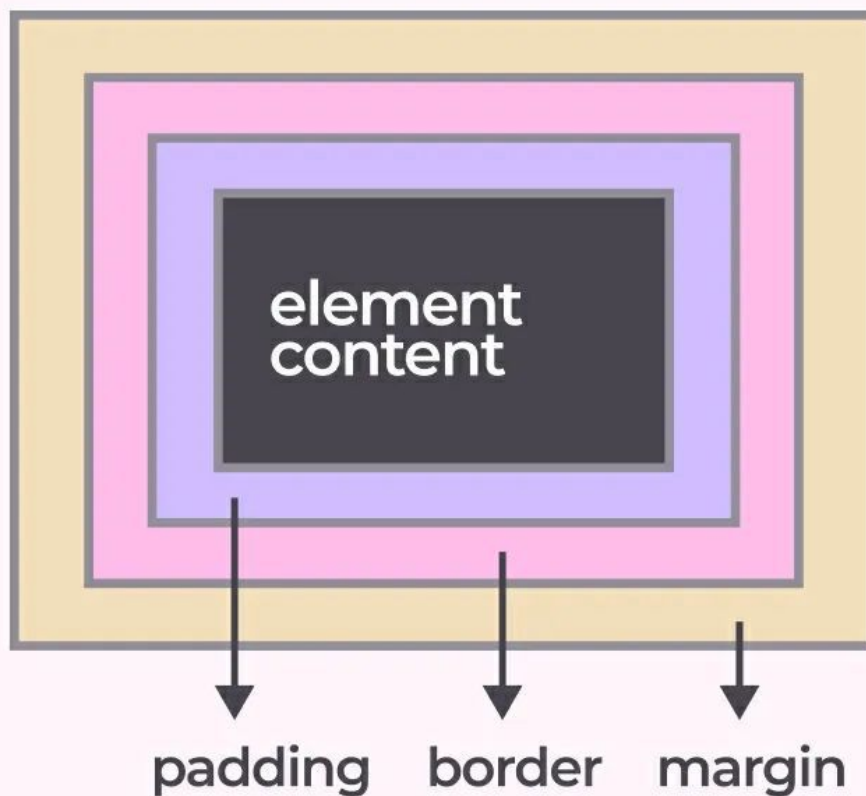
content box
vs border box

Box (?)

In CSS, every element has a rectangular facade that is made up of different layers

element content

padding   border   margin

box-sizing

Is a **property** that determines how the **overall dimensions** of the element (including content, padding, border and margin) are calculated

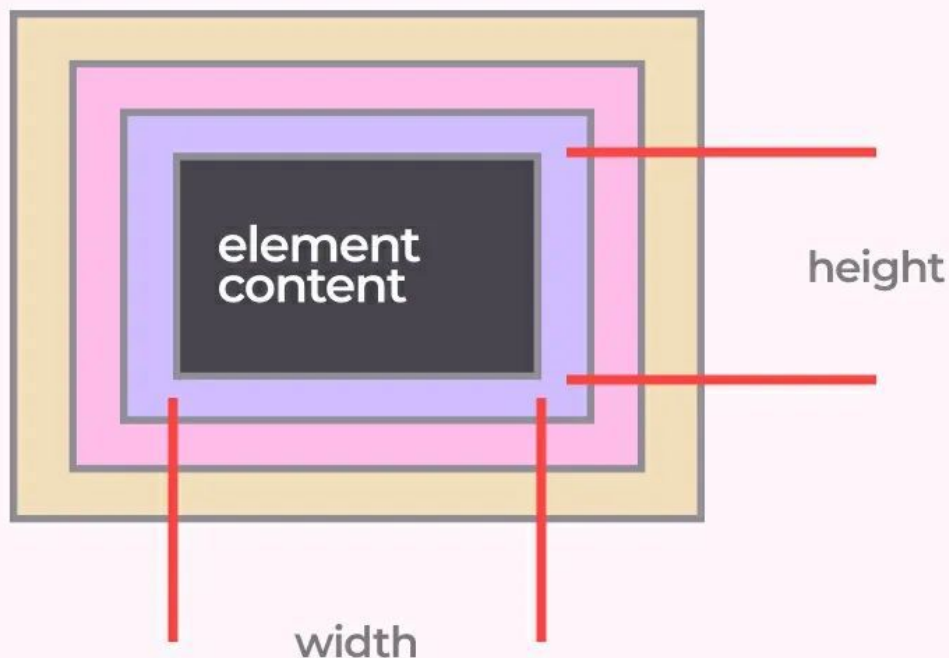This property takes two values:

→ **content-box**

→ **border-box**

content-box

The **width** and **height** represent the **dimensions of the content** alone. Any padding, border or margin is added on top of the width and height values.
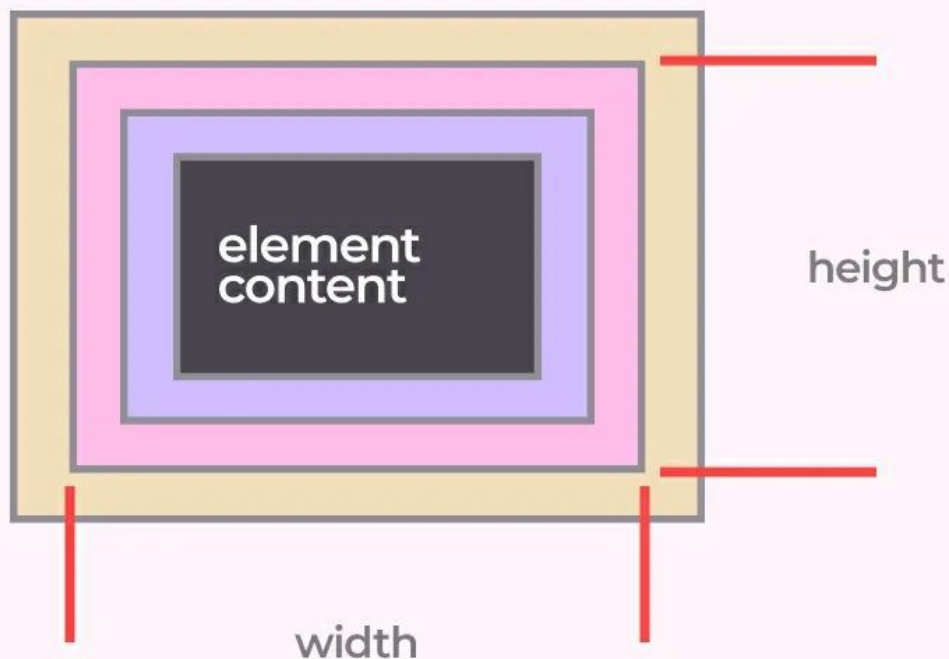

element
content

height
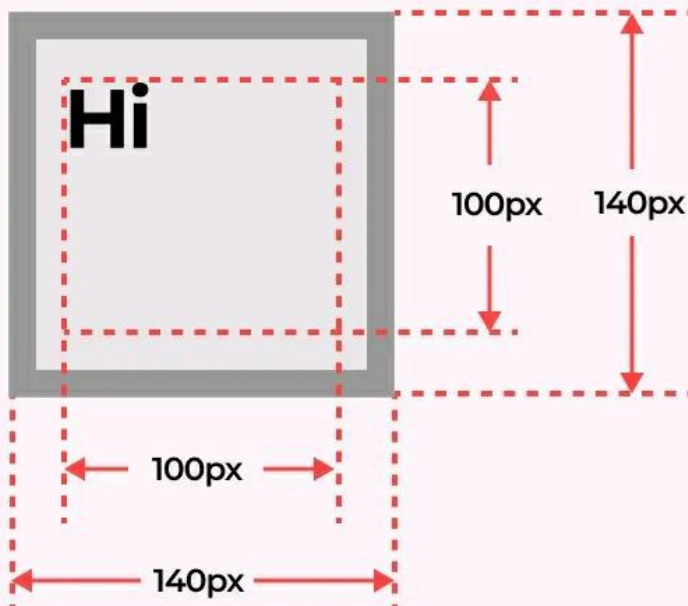
width

✓ Better in most cases

border-box

The **width** and **height** represent the **dimensions of the content, padding and border**. Margin is added on top of the width and height values.
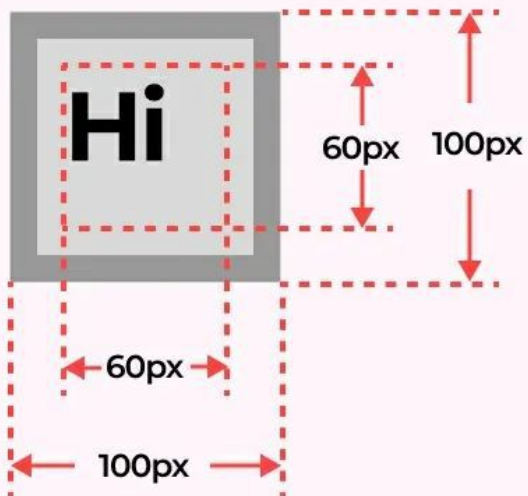
Example

```css
.item {
  box-sizing: content-box;
  width: 100px;
  height: 100px;
  padding: 10px;
  border: solid #999999 10px;
}
```

Hi

100px   140px

100px

140px

Example

```css
.item {
  box-sizing: border-box;
  width: 100px;
  height: 100px;
  padding: 10px;
  border: solid #999999 10px;
}
```

Hi

60px 100px

60px

100px

Which one to use?

In almost all cases **border-box** is easier to work with. For example, if you set a width to 100%, using border-box does not cause the element to overflow it's parent when there is padding or margin.
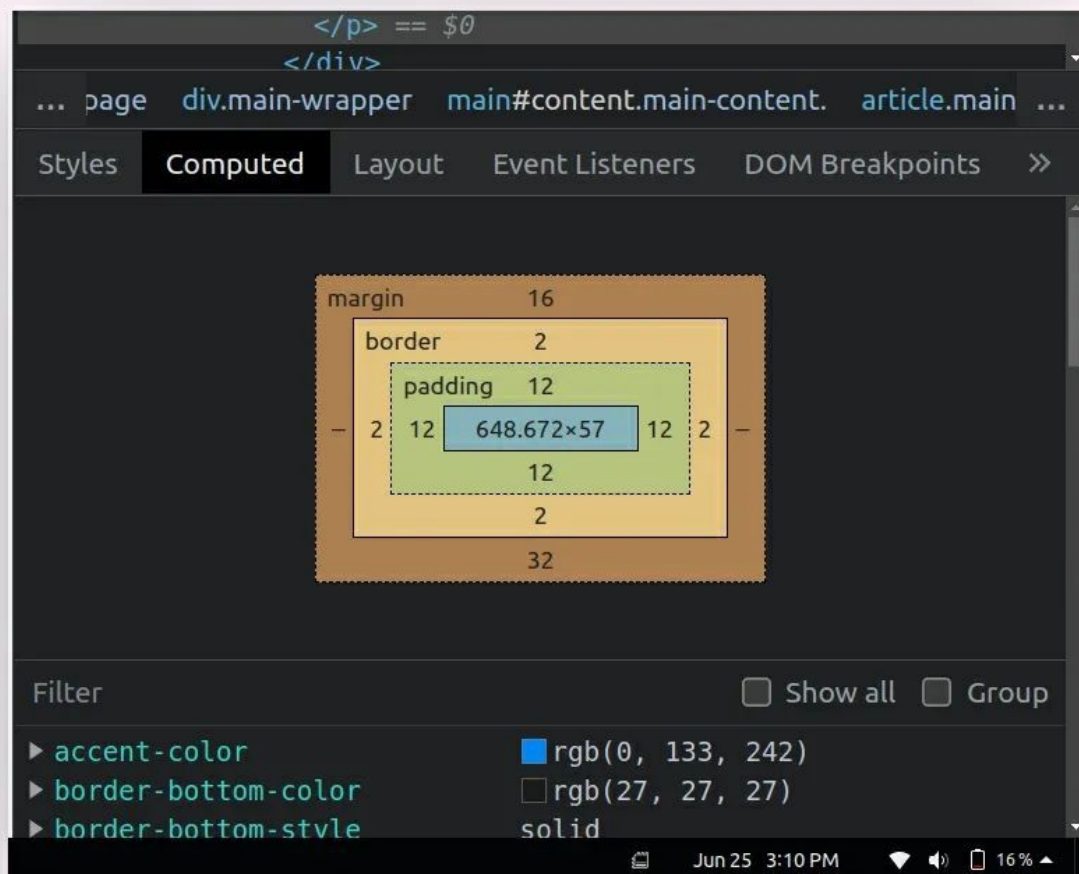
Some libraries like bootstrap change the global default using the following rule:

```css
* {
  box-sizing: border-box;
}
```

Extra tip!

The dev-tools provides an option for viewing the box model

Thanks for reading!

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