

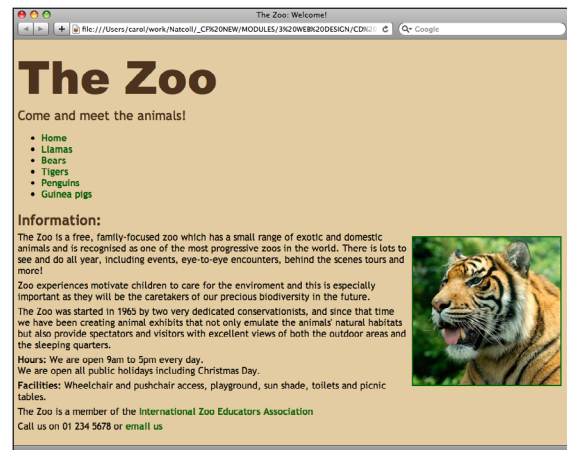
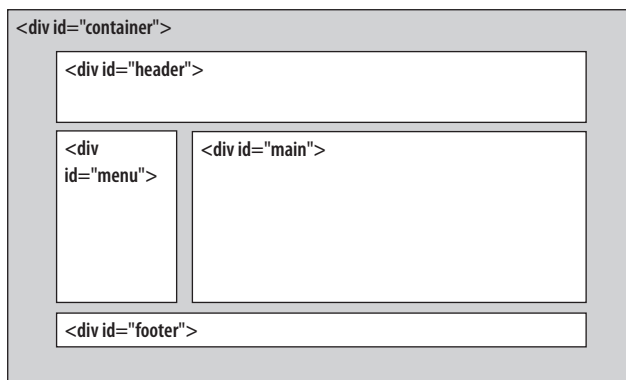
CSS layout exercise

For this exercise, use your results from the *Simple CSS exercise*. If you didn't complete that exercise, use the files inside the *Exercise resources > Simple CSS exercise* folder.

At each stage of this exercise, preview your work in a browser.

At the start of this exercise, you should have a page containing text and an image, marked up with XHTML tags and with colours specified in a CSS style sheet. Your HTML page should look something like this (see right):

In this exercise, you will add CSS layout, to make the layout of your page look like this:



Add div tags

First, you need to add div tags to your HTML page, to mark out each section of the page.

- 1 Open your HTML page.
- 2 Place a div called *header* (or something similar) around the *h1* and *h2* tags at the top of the page.
- 3 Place a div called *menu* (or something similar) around the menu list. Make sure the div surrounds the *ul* tags, as well as the list items.
- 4 Place a div called *main* (or something similar) around all the main content, from underneath the *menu* div, right down to the last paragraph: *Call us on...*
- 5 Place a div called *footer* (or something similar) around the last paragraph: *Call us on 01 234 5678 or email us.*

Add a container div

Add one last div tag, surrounding everything inside the *body* tag. Call it *container* (or something similar). You will use this div to restrict the width of the content, and to make it sit in the middle of the page.

Add HTML comments

Although you won't yet notice any difference in the display of your page, you will have extra code on the page, some of which can be confusing.

- Add HTML comments to your HTML code, to indicate where the sections of the page begin and end. For example:


```

      - <!--MAIN SECTION BEGINS HERE-->
      
```

Create the container style

- 1 Open your CSS file.
- 2 Create a new id style for your *container* div.
- 3 Set its width to 750 pixels wide.
- 4 Set the left and right margins to *auto*. This will make the container sit in the middle of the browser window.

Other optional settings

- You could change the background colour of the container. In the example (screenshot at the end of this exercise), this has been set to white.
- You could run a border down the left and right hand sides of the container.
- If you do either of these things, you will also need to add some *padding* to the container, so the content does not sit hard up against the edges of the container.

Create the menu styles

- 1 Create a new id style for your *menu* div.
- 2 Set the width of this div to 170 pixels.
- 3 Set this div to *float* left. When you save and preview your page, you will see the menu sitting on the left hand side of the rest of the content.
- 4 Make a new style to target the *ul* tag inside the *menu* div:
 - #menu ul
- 5 Set the *padding* and *margin* to 0 pixels and change the *list style type* to *none*, (which will take the bullet points off the list):
 - list-style-type: none;
- 6 To make the menu links look more like buttons, target the *li* tag inside the *menu* div:
 - #menu li
- 7 Give this style a background colour, a border on all edges and a few pixels padding.
- 8 To separate the buttons, add a few pixels of top and bottom margin to this style.
- 9 So that it is only the *menu* buttons that take on the already established link styles, add #menu to the front of the *a:link*, *a:visited*, *a:hover* and *a:active* styles:
 - #menu a:link, #menu a:visited {

Now when you preview the page, you should see that the links in the main part of the page and the footer have gone back to their default blue/purple colour.

Create the main section styles

- 1 Create a new style for your *main* div.
- 2 To stop the *main* text wrapping underneath your *menu*, set its left margin to 190 pixels:
 - margin-left: 190px;
- 3 So that it is only the paragraph tags in the *main* section that take on your already established style, add #main to the front of the *p* style:
 - #main p {
- 4 Do the same for the *h3* style.
- 5 Create new styles for #main *a:link*, #main *a:visited*, #main *a:hover* and #main *a:active*.

Create the footer section styles

- 1 Create a new id style for your *footer* div.
- 2 Give it a background colour and add a little bit of top margin, so that the main content does not sit hard up against the top of the footer:
 - `margin-top: 20px;`
- 3 In case you have any pages where the main content is shorter than the menu, you need to add a *clear* property to the footer; this will always make the footer sit underneath any *floated* sections (including the floated image):
 - `clear: both;`
- 4 Create a new style which targets the *p* tag inside the *footer* div.
- 5 Change the size and the colour. You might also want to align the text to the centre:
 - `text-align: center;`
- 6 So you can get the text to sit in the vertical centre of the footer, set the *margins* to 0, then add some *padding* at the top and bottom:
 - `margin: 0px;`
 - `padding-top: 10px;`
 - `padding-bottom: 10px;`
- 7 Create new styles for *#footer a:link*, *#footer a:visited*, *#footer a:hover* and *#footer a:active*.

Add CSS comments

Tidy up your CSS file:

- 1 Move some of the styles so they sit in logical groups and they make sense to you.
- 2 Add CSS comments to your code, to indicate where the sections of the styles begin and end. For example:
 - `/*HEADER SECTION*/`
- 3 You can also add some comments to individual lines if it will help you remember which bit of code does what:
 - `clear: both; /*MAKES FOOTER ALWAYS SIT UNDER MENU AND IMAGE*/`

Your finished page should look something like this when you preview it in a browser:



Extensions

If you have extra time for this exercise, try the following:

- Replace heading 1 with a text heading image you create in your image manipulation software.
- Use this initial page as a template for more pages in the same site. Save the page with one of the names you have already put into the menu, then find some appropriate text online to copy and paste (or invent some text), and find a public domain or Creative Commons licensed image to use to replace the tiger picture.
- Add a background image to the body tag style.