

Learn CSS By Use Cases

ebook by Joe Harrison



Properties background



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background

Properties

Intro

The background property allows us to apply different styles that will cover the whole element. Solid colors, gradients and images can make up a background, any content will always be in the foreground.

Syntax

As you'll see from my code, I generally only use the background shorthand for images, colors and gradients. Anything else I usually add separate longhand properties, for me it just reads cleaner this way. As well as accepting hex codes, background can also include functions like rgba, linear-gradient and url.

background

Properties

Special Power

Now this is my favourite special power in the ebook – putting a background color on an element makes debugging CSS issues so much easier. I touched on this when talking about padding but it's so important to my game that I had to mention it again.

Tips

Some HTML elements come with predefined backgrounds such as buttons and other form controls. Styling for these elements can also vary across browsers, so I always advise to set a background, even if it is just transparent (you can do this in reset.css).

Solid Elements

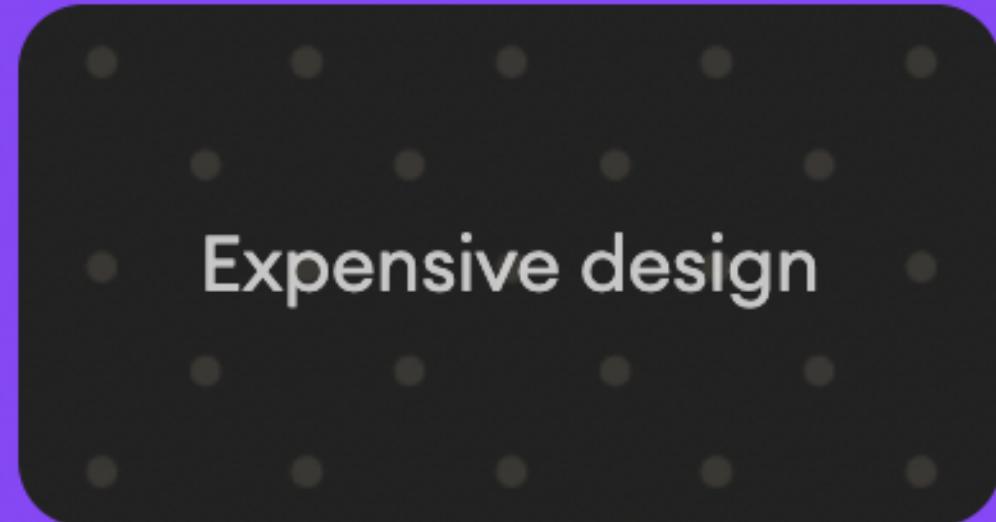
Buttons usually have a background

⟳ Reload

```
.button {  
  background: #8f44fd;  
}
```

Patterns

Repeat a ready made image



```
.card {  
    background: #222222 url("dot.png");  
}
```

Background images are set to repeat by default

Vertical Gradients

Used on artistic menus



Add multiple
color values

```
.sidebar {  
background: linear-gradient( —  
#0072ff,  
#00c6ff  
);  
}
```

A function
within the
background
property

Horizontal Gradients

Used on artistic headers



Add extra
degree angle
parameter

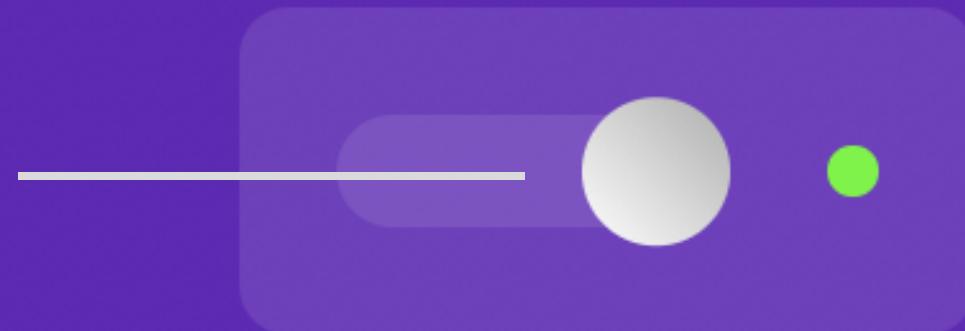
```
.banner {  
  background: linear-gradient(  
    90deg,  
    #b24592,  
    #f15f79  
  );  
}
```



Neumorphism

Make elements appear soft

Colors close
together
create soft
gradients

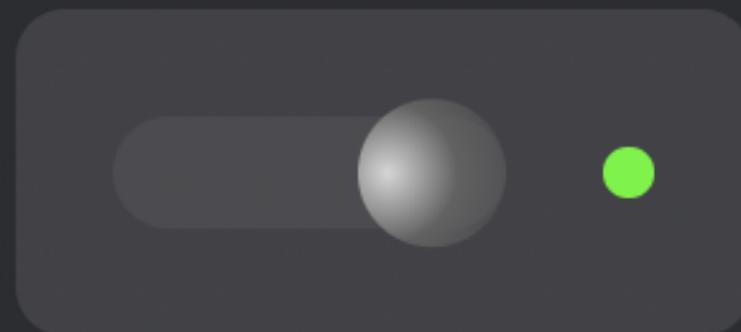


```
.handle {  
  background: linear-gradient(  
    45deg,  
    #ffffff,  
    #aeaeae  
  );  
}
```



Skeuomorphism

Make elements appear 3D



```
.handle {  
background: radial-gradient(  
    circle at 20%,  
    #d8d7d7 0%,  
    #626262 50%,  
    rgba(255, 255, 255, 0) 100%  
);  
}
```

Radial gradients have other use cases but I tend to use them sparingly in my work



Two-tone badges

Remove the 90deg, for horizontal



```
.badge {  
background:  
repeating-linear-gradient(  
90deg,  
#30be8b 0 50%, ——————  
#29a377 50% 100%  
);  
}
```

These are the
start and end
parameters.

The % inside this function is a percentage of itself,
which is not always the case in CSS (it's useful)

Stripes

Style lists that fill a space

Quite an old
school effect
but still useful
to learn here

Striped list

Frontend

Backend

Full stack

```
.list {  
background:  
repeating-linear-gradient(  
#ebebeb 0 1.5rem,  
#ffffff 1.5rem 3rem  
);  
}
```



Loaders

Elegant micro interactions

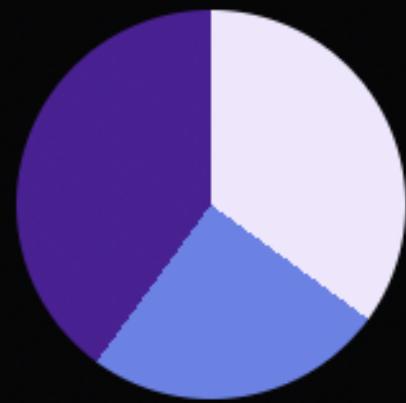
Loading

Add extra
degree angle
parameter

```
.loader {  
background:  
    repeating-linear-gradient(  
        60deg,  
        #139059 0 0.75rem,  
        #05a067 0.75rem 1.5rem  
    );  
}
```

Pie charts

Create simple inline visuals



```
.pie-chart {  
  background: conic-gradient(  
    #f0e7fe 0% 35%,  
    #6683eb 35% 60%, ——————  
    #4f1e97 60% 100%  
  );  
}
```

These are the
start and end
parameters.

Image backgrounds

Cover a certain height and width



```
.card {  
background:  
    url("assets/img/sunset.png");  
background-position: center;  
background-size: cover;  
}
```

Faded content

Accessible text over any image

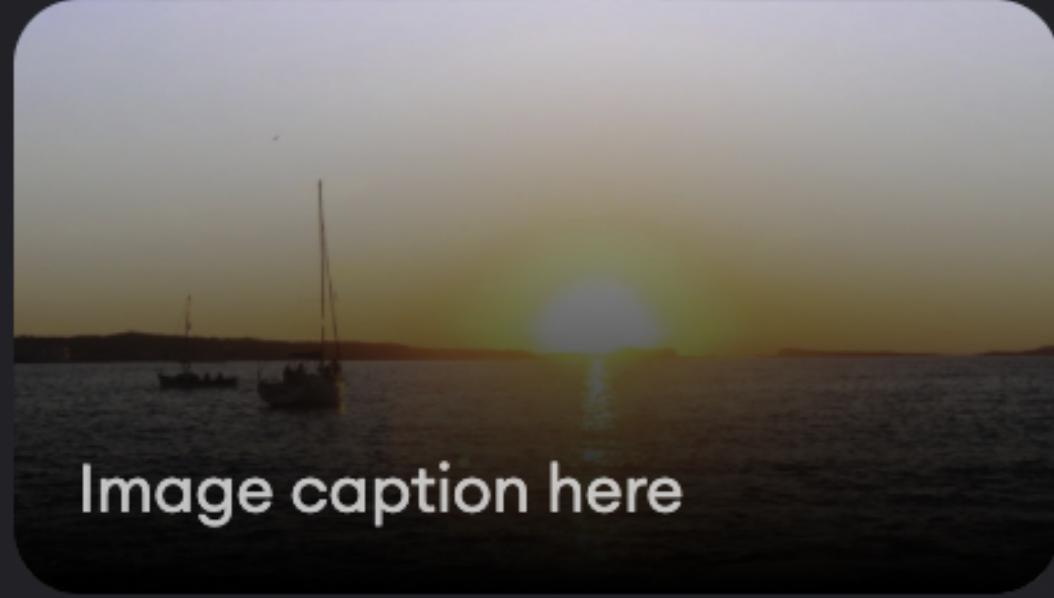


Image caption here

```
.card-overlay {  
  background: linear-gradient(  
    rgba(0, 0, 0, 0),  
    rgba(0, 0, 0, 1)  
  );  
}
```

background

Properties

Knowledge Gained

- 🏆 A background will cover the whole element and sit behind content
- 🏆 Solid colors, gradients and images are what can make up a background
- 🏆 A background has shorthand and longhand syntax but I prefer a mixture of both
- 🏆 Helpful when debugging complex issues
- 🏆 Default browser background styles can be overridden in your reset.css



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