

Learn CSS By Use Cases

ebook by Joe Harrison



Properties margin



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margin

Properties

Intro

Margins are outside an element, as opposed to padding (which you'll learn next) being within. Margins are generally used to apply spacing around the element.

Syntax

Margin accepts multiple length values (excluding fractions) which can be negative. Different numbers of arguments will result in shorthand styling being applied – which can result in less CSS code. However, if only setting one side's value I personally insist that the longhand properties read better and look cleaner – I'll let you decide on that one though.

margin

Properties

Special Power

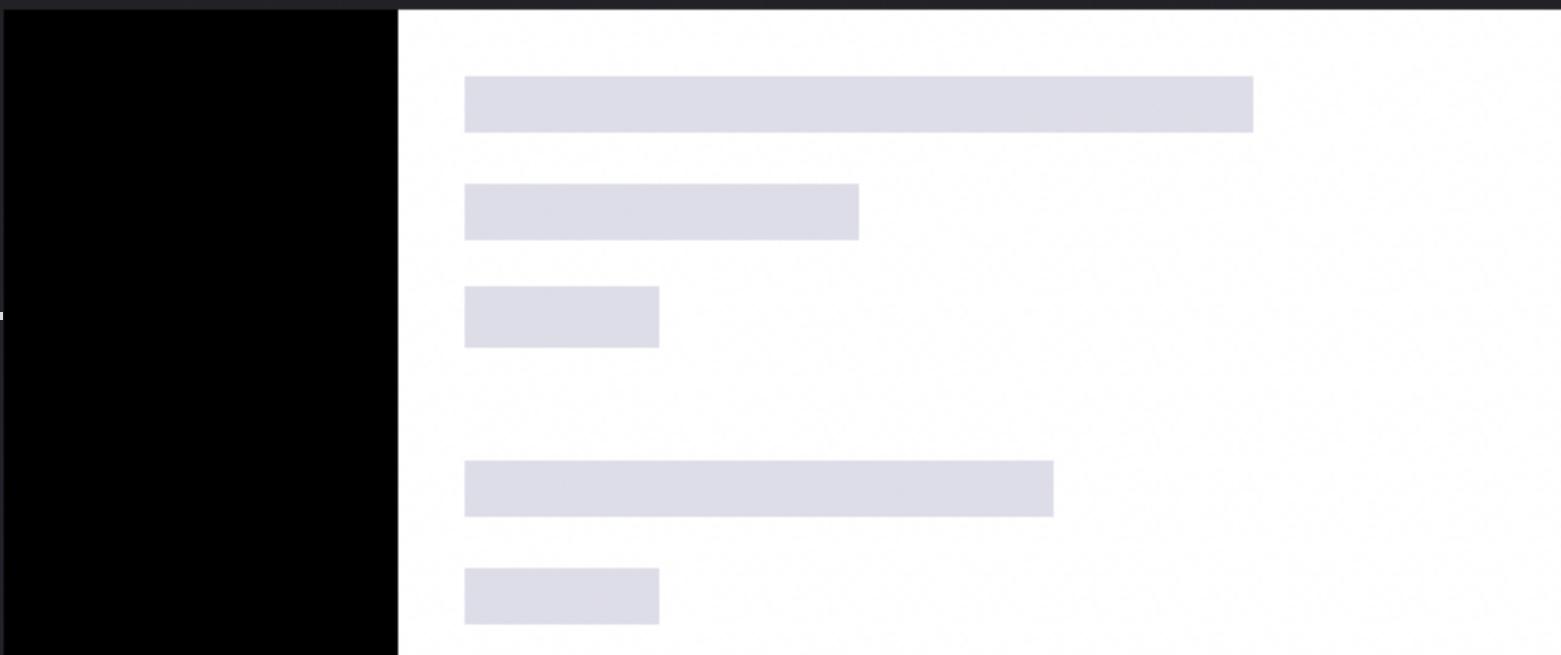
Setting left and right margins to auto (along with max-width) allows an element to be placed in the center – useful for responsive containers. Margins work great when working with flexbox and grid. Negative margins are useful when combined with position absolute to center an element on itself.

Tips

Some HTML elements have unwanted margins by default which should be reset globally (for example the body element). The margin part of an element is not clickable, so sometimes padding is a better option for UX.

Longhand

Floating sidebar
(not part of flow)



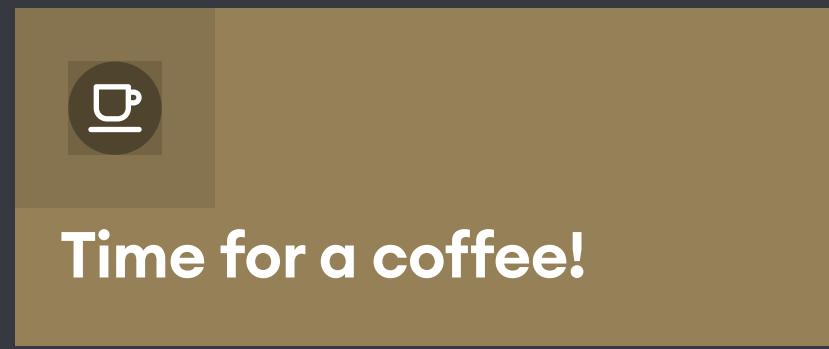
.content
div

```
.content { margin-left: 10rem; }
```

div elements do not come with any default margins so we can set one value using more readable longhand syntax

Shorthand

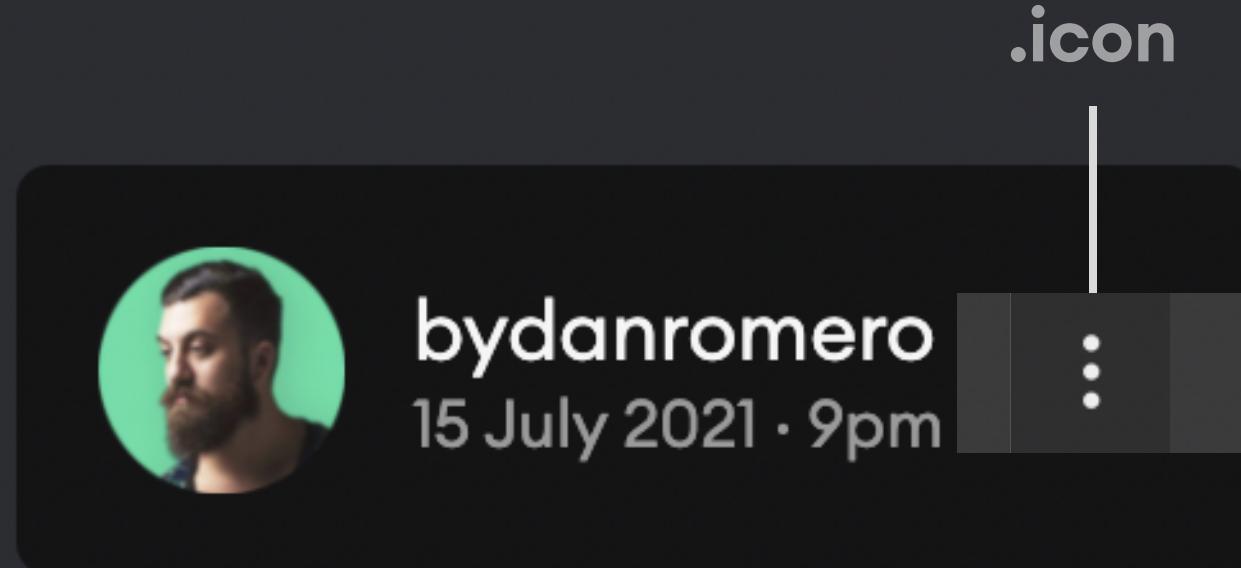
.icon



```
.icon { margin: 0.75rem; }
```

Passing one value to margin will add an equal margin around the whole element to create spacing

Longhand vs Shorthand (4)



Longhand

```
.icon {  
    margin-left: 0.5rem;  
    margin-right: 1.5rem;  
}
```

Shorthand

```
.icon {  
    margin: 0 1.5rem 0 0.5rem;  
}
```

top right bottom left



Shorthand (3)

Top, Right/Left, Bottom



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h2
h3

```
h2 { margin: 0 0 2px; }
```

Some HTML elements like h2 and body come with default margins, so shorthand helps us override all values

Shorthand (2)

Top/Bottom, Left/Right

Floating sidebar



.container

Auto margins
will usually
require a width
or max-width

```
.container {  
  margin: 0 auto; —  
  max-width: 67.5rem;  
}
```

Passing auto
will result in an
even margin on
either side

Negative margins

Center element on itself

Technical skills

- 🔥 Googling
- 🔥 YouTubing
- 🔥 Stack overflowing



.fab

```
.fab {  
    width: 2rem;  
    height: 2rem;  
    margin-top: -1rem;  
    margin-left: -1rem;  
}
```

Set a negative
margin of half
the width/
height

This can also
be done with
transform
which you'll
learn later on

Knowledge Gained

- 🏆 Margin is the space around an element
- 🏆 Margin accepts multiple length values (excluding fractions) and can be negative.
- 🏆 Margin has both longhand and shorthand syntax, both of which I use regularly
- 🏆 Some HTML elements have unwanted margins by default which should be reset
- 🏆 Negative margins are useful when centering items especially in CSS animations



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