

Learn CSS By Use Cases

ebook by Joe Harrison



Properties border



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border

Properties

Intro

Aside from the obvious use case of putting a line around an element, borders can be used to achieve many cool effects. They help to separate things in our UI and even show when form controls have errors.

Syntax

A border can consist of three property value arguments – width, style and color. These can be set separately via longhand syntax, or set all at once via shorthand. You can pass multiple border arguments separated by a comma, to style each side – there is even a separate shorthand for each longhand property. However, I find it confusing and barely use it.

border

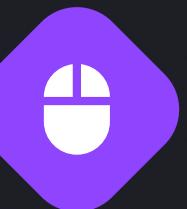
Properties

Special Power

Being able to set different border settings for each side of the element, allows us to create abstract shapes like triangles. The dashed border style allows us to make elements that look perforated – like tickets and placeholders.

Tips

If you'd like your border width to scale when the root element font size changes, then use rem lengths. For ultra thin borders I almost always use px lengths. If you need a border to dynamically appear, it's a good idea to set a transparent border color by default. This way the structure of the element will be the same, even if the border isn't visible.



Outline controls

Add border on all sides

 Search by

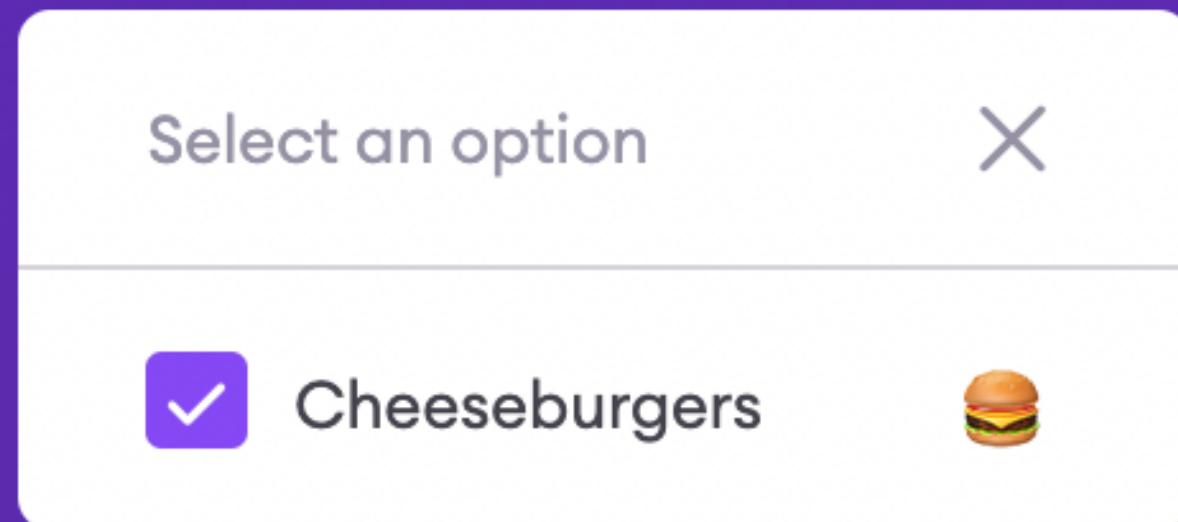
```
input { border: 2px solid #606060; }
```

| | |
width style color



Horizontal dividers

Add border on bottom only



```
.header { border-bottom: 1px solid #d5d3da; }
```

Longhand

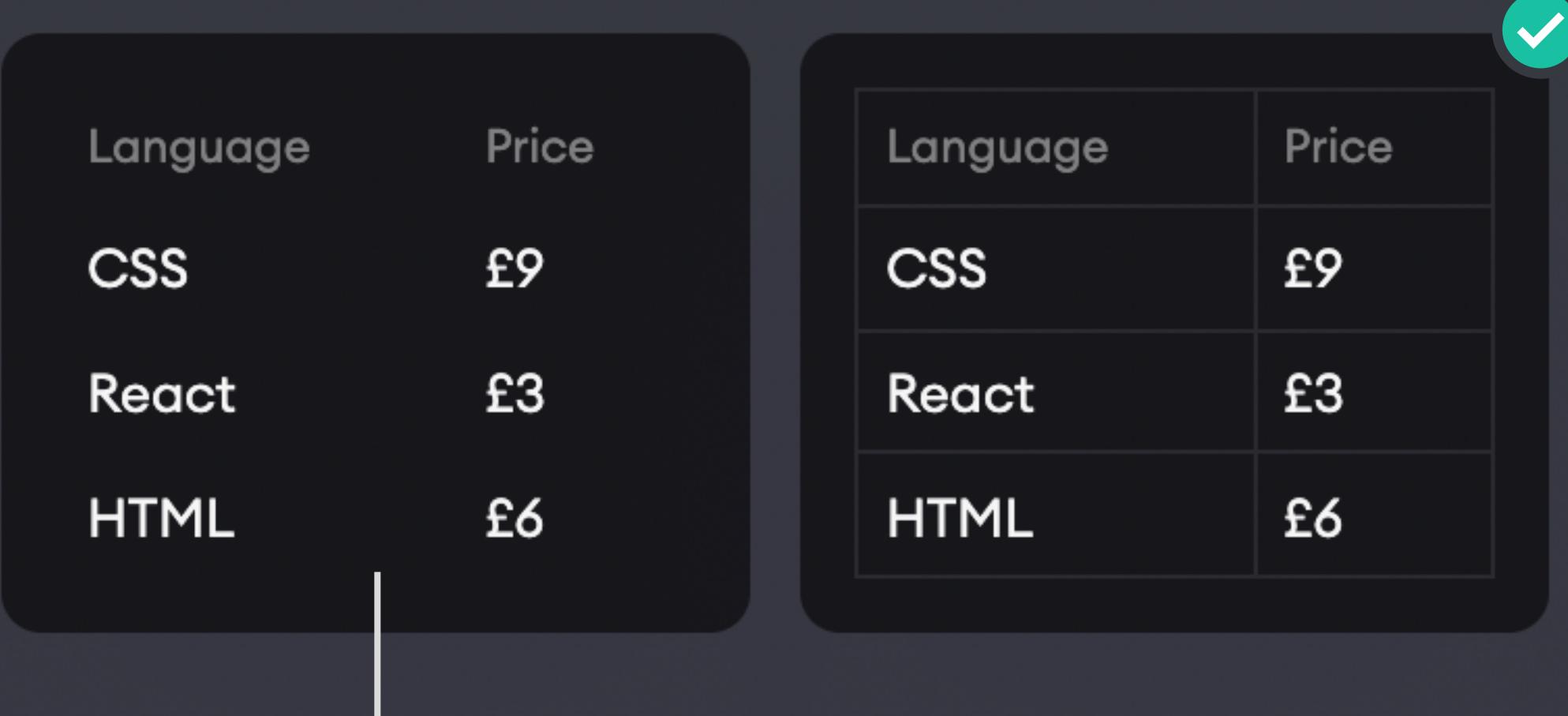
Vertical dividers

Add border on left only



```
a:not(:first-child) {  
  border-left: 1px solid #d5d3da;  
}
```

Table gridlines



Language	Price
CSS	£9
React	£3
HTML	£6

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Tables do not come with
cell borders by default

```
table { border-collapse: collapse; }

th, td { border: 1px solid #2a2a31; }
```

The border-collapse property resets the default behaviour of adding space between each cell

Triangles

Create abstract shapes

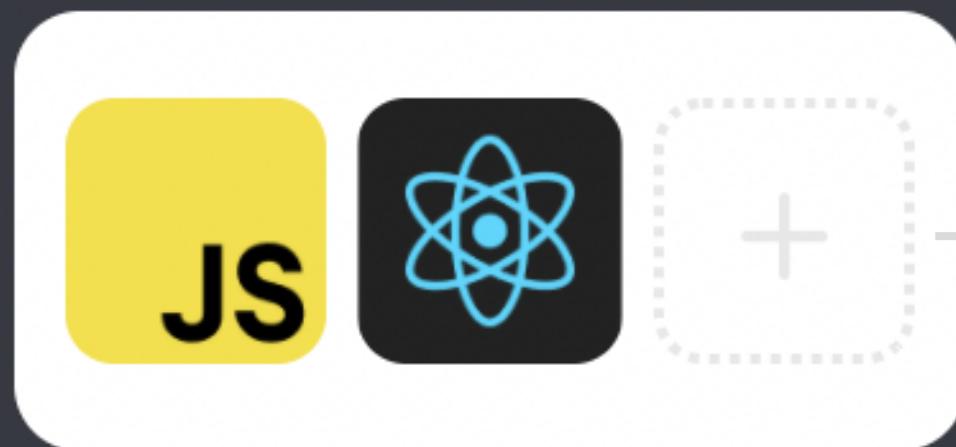
BUY TICKETS

Elements
with no
height/
width will
create
triangles

```
.arrow {  
  border-top: 4rem solid transparent;  
  border-right: 4rem solid transparent;  
  border-bottom: 4rem solid #7e18ff;  
}
```

Placeholders

Show where items may appear



Subtle
placeholder
button

```
.placeholder {  
  border: 3px dotted #e8e8e8;  
}
```

Cut-out illusion

Separate avatars cleanly

Match the
border to the
background



```
.background { background: #222227; }

.avatar { border: 7px solid #222227; }
```



Validation errors

Give context to your controls

.....

Password you entered is not valid

Shorthand

```
input { border: 2px solid #606060; }
```

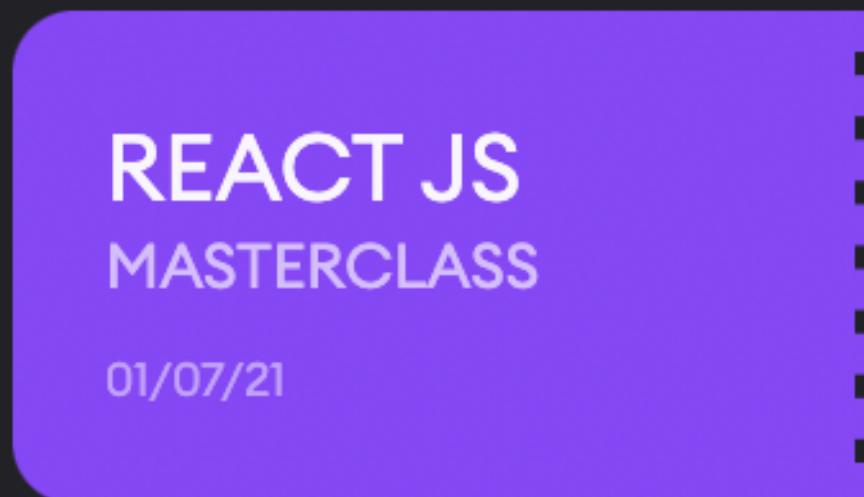
```
input.invalid { border-color: #d95050; }
```

Longhand

We do not need to set any other border property other than color. Following this practice helps keep your CSS clean

Ticket mockups

Create designs outside the box



Element
with border
only and
without a
background

```
.ticket-stub {  
  border-right: 6px dashed #8f44fd;  
}
```

border

Properties

Knowledge Gained

- 🏆 A border adds a line to whichever sides of an element you target
- 🏆 A border consists of three parts – width, style and color
- 🏆 A border has shorthand and longhand
- 🏆 A border has many use cases – think outside the box
- 🏆 rem length borders will scale when the root font size changes, px will not



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