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CSS Flex Container

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Parent Element (Container)

Like we specified in the previous chapter, this is a flex **container** (the blue area) with three flex **items**:

1   2   3

The flex container becomes flexible by setting the `display` property to `flex` :

Example

```
.flex-container {
  display: flex;
}
```

Try it Yourself »

The flex container properties are:

- flex-direction
- flex-wrap
- flex-flow
- justify-content
- align-items
- align-content

The `flex-direction` property defines in which direction the container wants to stack the flex items.

1

2

3

Example

The `column` value stacks the flex items vertically (from top to bottom):

```
.flex-container {
  display: flex;
  flex-direction: column;
}
```

Try it Yourself »

Example

The `column-reverse` value stacks the flex items vertically (but from bottom to top):

```
.flex-container {
  display: flex;
  flex-direction: column-reverse;
}
```

Example

The `row` value stacks the flex items horizontally (from left to right):

```css
.flex-container {
  display: flex;
  flex-direction: row;
}
```

Try it Yourself »

Example

The `row-reverse` value stacks the flex items horizontally (but from right to left):

```css
.flex-container {
  display: flex;
  flex-direction: row-reverse;
}
```

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The flex-wrap Property

The `flex-wrap` property specifies whether the flex items should wrap or not.

The examples below have 12 flex items, to better demonstrate the `flex-wrap` property.

<div style="display:flex">

1   2   3   4   5

</div>

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Example

The `wrap` value specifies that the flex items will wrap if necessary:

```
.flex-container {
  display: flex;
  flex-wrap: wrap;
}
```

Try it Yourself »

Example

The `nowrap` value specifies that the flex items will not wrap (this is default):

```
.flex-container {
  display: flex;
  flex-wrap: nowrap;
}
```

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Example

The `wrap-reverse` value specifies that the flexible items will wrap if necessary, in reverse order:

```
.flex-container {
  display: flex;
```

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The flex-flow Property

The `flex-flow` property is a shorthand property for setting both the `flex-direction` and `flex-wrap` properties.

Example

```css
.flex-container {
  display: flex;
  flex-flow: row wrap;
}
```

Try it Yourself »

The justify-content Property

The `justify-content` property is used to align the flex items:

<div style="text-align:center; font-size:2em;">1   2   3</div>

1   2   3

Example

The `center` value aligns the flex items at the center of the container:

```css
.flex-container {
  display: flex;
```

Example

The `flex-start` value aligns the flex items at the beginning of the container (this is default):

```
.flex-container {
  display: flex;
  justify-content: flex-start;
}
```

Try it Yourself »

Example

The `flex-end` value aligns the flex items at the end of the container:

```
.flex-container {
  display: flex;
  justify-content: flex-end;
}
```

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Example

The `space-around` value displays the flex items with space before, between, and after the lines:

```
.flex-container {
  display: flex;
```

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Example

The `space-between` value displays the flex items with space between the lines:

```
.flex-container {
  display: flex;
  justify-content: space-between;
}
```

Try it Yourself »

The align-items Property

The `align-items` property is used to align the flex items.

<div style="text-align:center">

1   2   3

</div>

In these examples we use a 200 pixels high container, to better demonstrate the `align-items` property.

Example

The `center` value aligns the flex items in the middle of the container:

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```
align-items: center;
}
```

Try it Yourself »

Example

The `flex-start` value aligns the flex items at the top of the container:

```css
.flex-container {
  display: flex;
  height: 200px;
  align-items: flex-start;
}
```

Try it Yourself »

Example

The `flex-end` value aligns the flex items at the bottom of the container:

```css
.flex-container {
  display: flex;
  height: 200px;
  align-items: flex-end;
}
```

Try it Yourself »

Example

The `stretch` value stretches the flex items to fill the container (this is default):

```
  align-items: stretch;
}
```
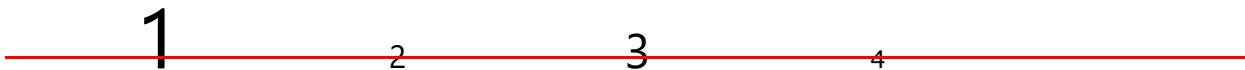
Try it Yourself »

Example

The `baseline` value aligns the flex items such as their baselines aligns:

```
.flex-container {
  display: flex;
  height: 200px;
  align-items: baseline;
}
```

Note: the example uses different font-size to demonstrate that the items gets aligned by the text baseline:

1   2   3   4

Try it Yourself »

The align-content Property

The `align-content` property is used to align the flex lines.

1   2   3   4   5

◄   ►

In these examples we use a 600 pixels high container, with the `flex-wrap` property set to `wrap` , to better demonstrate the `align-content` property.

Example

The `space-between` value displays the flex lines with equal space between them:

```css
.flex-container {
  display: flex;
  height: 600px;
  flex-wrap: wrap;
  align-content: space-between;
}
```

Try it Yourself »

Example

The `space-around` value displays the flex lines with space before, between, and after them:

```css
.flex-container {
  display: flex;
  height: 600px;
  flex-wrap: wrap;
  align-content: space-around;
}
```

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Example

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```
  display: flex;
  height: 600px;
  flex-wrap: wrap;
  align-content: stretch;
}
```

Try it Yourself »

Example

The `center` value displays the flex lines in the middle of the container:

```
.flex-container {
  display: flex;
  height: 600px;
  flex-wrap: wrap;
  align-content: center;
}
```

Try it Yourself »

Example

The `flex-start` value displays the flex lines at the start of the container:

```
.flex-container {
  display: flex;
  height: 600px;
  flex-wrap: wrap;
  align-content: flex-start;
}
```

Try it Yourself »

```
.flex-container {
  display: flex;
  height: 600px;
  flex-wrap: wrap;
  align-content: flex-end;
}
```

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Perfect Centering

In the following example we will solve a very common style problem: perfect centering.

SOLUTION: Set both the `justify-content` and `align-items` properties to `center`, and the flex item will be perfectly centered:

Example

```
.flex-container {
  display: flex;
  height: 300px;
```

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The CSS Flexbox Container Properties

The following table lists all the CSS Flexbox Container properties:

Property	Description
align-content	Modifies the behavior of the flex-wrap property. It is similar to align-items, but instead of aligning flex items, it aligns flex lines
align-items	Vertically aligns the flex items when the items do not use all available space on the cross-axis
display	Specifies the type of box used for an HTML element
flex-direction	Specifies the direction of the flexible items inside a flex container
flex-flow	A shorthand property for flex-direction and flex-wrap
flex-wrap	Specifies whether the flex items should wrap or not, if there is not enough room for them on one flex line
justify-content	Horizontally aligns the flex items when the items do not use all available space on the main-axis

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