

Is element block level or inline level?

Asked 14 years, 9 months ago

Modified 1 year, 11 months ago

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200

I've read somewhere that `` element behaves like both. If correct, could someone please explain with examples?



html

css

image



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edited Jul 9, 2015 at 19:51



Stickers

78.6k ● 24 ● 155 ● 194

asked Mar 8, 2010 at 16:19



understack

11.6k ● 24 ● 79 ● 100

10 Answers

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225

It's true, they are both - or more precisely, they are "inline block" elements. This means that they flow inline like text, but also have a width and height like block elements.



In CSS, you can set an element to `display: inline-block` to make it replicate the behaviour of images*.



Images and objects are also known as "replaced" elements, since they do not have content per se, the element is essentially replaced by binary data.



* Note that browsers technically use `display: inline` (as seen in the developer tools) but they are giving special treatment to images. They still follow all traits of `inline-block`.

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edited Dec 30, 2015 at 2:38

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answered Mar 8, 2010 at 16:21



DisgruntledGoat

72.4k ● 70 ● 212 ● 291

I always read that images are inline elements, not inline-block, but it does make sense that they would be inline-block, due to the ability to add width and height. – [Donato](#)
Jun 5, 2015 at 18:34

24 This answer is not technically correct. Precisely speaking, `img` elements are not `inline-block` but actually `inline` elements. You can check this in a modern browser by right clicking an image, clicking "Inspect element", then viewing the computed style, which will show `display: inline`. There is no block context happening inside the tag, so it's not correct to call it `inline-block`. For more information on replaced inline elements see [Quentin's answer](#) and [this MDN article](#). – [Maximillian Laumeister](#) Dec 27, 2015 at 2:27

@Max that link says nothing about replaced elements being inline. – [DisgruntledGoat](#) Dec 27, 2015 at 2:38

@DisgruntledGoat The link I posted doesn't say that `img` elements are inline - Google Chrome dev tools shows `img` elements as being inline. This post is the only place I've found so far that says that they are `inline-block` instead. Interestingly, I haven't found any authority that says they are `inline` either. Is how to treat the tag implementation-dependent, maybe? – [Maximillian Laumeister](#) Dec 27, 2015 at 2:54

- 4 @Max According to [this](#), replaced elements are outside the scope of the CSS formatting model. Nothing in the HTML or CSS specs specify that images are inline. So regardless of what the browser says it is, images are treated exactly like they were set to `display:inline-block` .
– [DisgruntledGoat](#) Dec 28, 2015 at 14:47 ✎
-



An `img` element is a *replaced inline element*.

63



It behaves like an inline element (because it is), but some generalizations about inline elements do not apply to `img` elements.



e.g.



Generalization: "Width does not apply to inline elements"

What [the spec actually says](#): "Applies to: all elements but non-replaced inline elements, table rows, and row groups
"

Since an image is a replaced inline element, it does apply.

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edited Apr 4, 2020 at 20:50

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answered Mar 8, 2010 at 16:22



Quentin

942k ● 132 ● 1.3k ● 1.4k



17

IMG elements are inline, meaning that unless they are floated they will flow horizontally with text and other inline elements.



They are "block" elements in that they have a width and a height. But they behave more like "inline-block" in that respect.



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answered Mar 8, 2010 at 16:22

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Robusto

31.9k ● 8 ● 58 ● 78



7

For almost all purposes think of them as an inline element with a width set. Basically you are free to dictate how you would like images to display using CSS. I generally set a few image classes like so:



```
img.center {display:block;margin:0 auto;}  
  
img.left {float:left;margin-right:10px;}
```



```
img.right {float:right;margin-left:10px;}
```

```
img.border {border:1px solid #333;}
```

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answered Mar 8, 2010 at 17:10

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[Montana Flynn](#)

299 ● 1 ● 4 ● 10



3



Whenever you insert an image it just takes the width that the image has originally. You can add any other html element next to it and you will see that it will allow it. That makes image an "inline" element.

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answered Apr 4, 2016 at 9:58

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[Avatar](#)

76 ● 1



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It's true, they are both - or more precisely, they are "inline block" elements. This means that they flow inline like text, but also have a width and height like block elements.

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answered Apr 22, 2020 at 15:45

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[Modaser Sadat](#)

9 ● 1



`` is a replaced element; it has a display value of inline by default, but its default dimensions are defined by the embedded image's intrinsic values, like it were inline-

-1

block. You can set properties like border/border-radius, padding/margin, width, height, etc. on an image.



Replaced elements : They're elements whose contents are not affected by the current document's styles. The position of the replaced element can be affected using CSS, but not the contents of the replaced element itself.

Reference : <https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTML/Element/img>

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answered Feb 6, 2021 at 14:59

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Ritu Raj Shrivastava

79 ● 2 ● 8



-1

The is considered as an inline element because it allows other elements including itself too sit on the same line. It can also have some block features like styling of the width and height. But you can change it by setting the display property of the element in CSS to 'inline-block'. That is: `img {display:inline-block;}`



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answered Aug 9, 2021 at 15:10

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behaves as an **inline-block** element as it allows other images in same line i.e. inline and also we can change the width and height of the image and this is the property



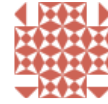
of a block element. Hence, provide both the features of inline and block elements.



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answered Jan 17, 2021 at 13:00

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[Ayushgupta](#)

1 ● 1



is an inline element ..but in css you can change it simply by:- `img{display:inline-block;}` or `img{display:inline-block;}` or `img{display:inliblock;}`

-3



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answered Jan 4, 2021 at 10:16

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1



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