

CSS Property	Works on Tables?	Works on Forms?	Notes
<code>border</code>	Yes	Yes	Common for both
<code>padding</code>	Yes	Yes	Common for both
<code>margin</code>	Yes	Yes	Common for both
<code>color</code>	Yes	Yes	Common for both
<code>font-family</code>	Yes	Yes	Common for both
<code>font-size</code>	Yes	Yes	Common for both
<code>text-align</code>	Yes	Yes	Common for both
<code>border-collapse</code>	Yes	No	Table only
<code>border-spacing</code>	Yes	No	Table only
<code>appearance</code>	No	Yes	Form only

<code>resize</code>	No	Yes (textarea)	Form only
<code>box-shadow</code>	Yes	Partial	May be overridden in forms
<code>vertical-align</code>	Yes	Partial	Limited in form controls

## Common CSS Properties for Tables with Use Cases

### 1. border

- Use: Adds borders around the table, rows, or cells.
- Example:

```
table, th, td {
  border: 1px solid black;
}
```

- 
- Use case: To visually separate table cells and outline the entire table<sup>15</sup>.

### 2. border-collapse

- Use: Controls whether adjacent cell borders are merged (`collapse`) or separated (`separate`).
- Example:

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

-

- Use case: To create a clean, single border between cells instead of double borders<sup>15</sup>.

### 3. border-radius

- Use: Rounds the corners of table borders.
- Example:

```
table {  
  
    border-radius: 10px;  
}
```

- 
- Use case: To give the table a softer, modern look by rounding edges<sup>5</sup>.

### 4. padding

- Use: Adds space inside table cells.
- Example:

```
th, td {  
    padding: 8px 12px;  
}
```

- 
- Use case: To improve readability by spacing content away from cell borders<sup>15</sup>.

### 5. border-spacing

- Use: Adds space between cells when `border-collapse` is `separate`.
- Example:

```
table {  
    border-spacing: 10px;  
}
```

-

- Use case: To create visual gaps between cells when borders are not collapsed<sup>5</sup>.

## 6. empty-cells

- Use: Controls whether empty table cells show borders and spacing.
- Example:

```
table {  
  empty-cells: hide;  
}
```

- 
- Use case: To hide borders and spacing for empty cells, making them invisible<sup>5</sup>.

## 7. table-layout

- Use: Defines how the table width is calculated (`auto` or `fixed`).
- Example:
- CSS

```
table {  
  table-layout: fixed;  
  width: 100%;  
}
```

- 
- Use case:
  - `fixed`: Faster rendering, columns sized by width property.
  - `auto`: Columns sized by content.Use fixed for predictable layouts and auto for flexible content-based sizing<sup>5</sup>.

## 8. text-align

- Use: Sets horizontal alignment of cell content.
- Example:
- CSS

```
th {
  text-align: center;
}
td {
  text-align: left;
}
```

- 
- Use case: Align headers centrally and data left or right for better readability[57](#).

## 9. vertical-align

- Use: Sets vertical alignment of content within cells.
- Example:

```
td {
  vertical-align: middle;
}
```

- 
- Use case: Align cell content top, middle, or bottom to improve visual balance[57](#).

## 10. font-family, font-size, font-weight

- Use: Controls font appearance inside table cells.
- Example:

```
th {
  font-family: 'Lucida Sans', sans-serif;
  font-size: large;
  font-weight: bold;
}
td {
  font-family: Verdana, sans-serif;
  font-size: small;
}
```

- 
- Use case: Differentiate headers from data cells and improve readability[56](#).

## 11. background-color

- Use: Sets background color for table, rows, or cells.
- Example:

```
thead {  
  background-color: #333;  
  color: white;  
}  
tr:nth-child(even) {  
  background-color: #f2f2f2;  
}
```

- 
- Use case: Highlight headers and create zebra striping for easier row distinction<sup>158</sup>.

## 12. caption-side

- Use: Positions the table caption (`top` or `bottom`).
- Example:

```
caption {  
  caption-side: bottom;  
}
```

- 
- Use case: Control where the caption appears relative to the table<sup>5</sup>.

## 13. width and height

- Use: Sets table or cell dimensions.
- Example:

```
table {  
  width: 100%;  
}  
td {  
  height: 50px;  
}
```

-

- Use case: Control table size and cell height for consistent layout[57](#).

## 14. hover effects

- Use: Change style on mouse hover.
- Example:

```
tr:hover {
  background-color: #ffe082;
}
```

- 
- Use case: Improve usability by highlighting rows on hover[8](#).

## 15. display: table-related values

- Use: Make non-table elements behave like table elements.
- Example:

```
div.container {

  display: table;
}
div.row {
  display: table-row;
}
div.cell {
  display: table-cell;
}
```

- 
- Use case: Create table-like layouts with divs or other elements for flexible design[67](#).

## Summary Table of Properties and Use Cases

CSS Property	Use Case Example	Description

<code>border</code>	Add borders to table and cells	Visual separation of cells
<code>border-collapse</code>	<code>collapse</code> for single borders	Merge adjacent borders
<code>border-radius</code>	Rounded corners on table	Softer table edges
<code>padding</code>	Space inside cells	Improve readability
<code>border-spacing</code>	Space between cells when borders separate	Visual gaps between cells
<code>empty-cells</code>	Hide borders for empty cells	Hide empty cell borders
<code>table-layout</code>	<code>fixed</code> for faster layout	Control column sizing
<code>text-align</code>	Center headers, left-align data	Horizontal text alignment
<code>vertical-align</code>	Middle align cell content	Vertical text alignment
<code>font-family</code>	Different fonts for headers and data	Improve typography
<code>background-color</code>	Zebra striping, header background	Visual distinction



<code>caption-side</code>	Position caption at bottom	Caption placement
<code>width, height</code>	Control table and cell size	Layout control
<code>hover</code>	Highlight rows on mouseover	Usability enhancement
<code>display: table-*</code>	Make divs behave like table elements	Flexible table-like layouts

## References

- W3Schools CSS Tables [158](#)
- MDN CSS Table Module [7](#)
- CSS-Tricks Table Guide [6](#)
- TutorialRepublic CSS Tables [8](#)

In summary:

CSS properties like `border`, `padding`, `text-align`, and `background-color` are essential for styling tables and improving readability and usability. Properties like `border-collapse` and `border-spacing` specifically control table borders and spacing. Advanced layouts can be achieved by using `display: table` and related values on non-table elements.

If you want, I can also provide examples or a ready-to-use CSS snippet based on these properties!