



# Difference between inline and inline-block

As I was working on a side project, the same one where I was using buttons I saw examples using `display: inline-block` used in the button styles.

Why should I use `inline-block` instead of inline styles? What difference does it make?

## Difference between inline-block and inline

`display: inline-block` respect top and bottom margins & paddings.

`display: inline`, doesn't.

In the example below we use both inline and inline block elements in the same paragraph to illustrate the process.

```
<p>Cheese and wine ricotta danish fontina.  
Brie cheesy grin paneer squirty cheese taleggio  
cheesecake <span class="inline-block-box">goat  
taleggio</span> <span class="inline-box">goat  
taleggio</span>. Bavarian  
bergkase emmental fromage cheesecake  
cheese slices cheesy grin queso caerphilly.</p>
```

The styles for the span elements are identical except for `display`.

Again, the difference is that `inline-block` will honor dimensions and padding but `inline` will not.

```
span.inline-block-box {  
  display: inline-block;  
  width: 100px;
```

```
height: 100px;
padding: 1em;
background-color: rebeccapurple;
color: white;
}

span.inline-box {
  display: inline;
  width: 100px;
  height: 100px;
  padding: 1em;
  background-color: rebeccapurple;
  color: white;
}
```

You can see multiple examples using the styles described above in Codepen: <https://codepen.io/caraya/pen/wvvpEQo>

The first example uses `inline-block` for two span elements.

The second example uses `inline` for both span elements

The last example combines the two. It uses `inline-block` for the first span and `inline` for the second.

## Why would we use inline block?

There may be times when we want to style inline elements with attributes that will only work with `inline-block` elements.