

CSS Layout - The z-index Property

 [w3schools.com/css/css_z-index.asp](https://www.w3schools.com/css/css_z-index.asp)

The **z-index** property specifies the stack order of an element.

The z-index Property

When elements are positioned, they can overlap other elements.

The **z-index** property specifies the stack order of an element (which element should be placed in front of, or behind, the others).

An element can have a positive or negative stack order:

This is a heading



Because the image has a z-index of -1, it will be placed behind the text.

Example

```
img {  
  position: absolute;  
  left: 0px;  
  top: 0px;  
  z-index: -1;  
}
```

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Note: **z-index** only works on positioned elements (position: absolute, position: relative, position: fixed, or position: sticky) and flex items (elements that are direct children of display: flex elements).

Another z-index Example

Example

Here we see that an element with greater stack order is always above an element with a lower stack order:

```
<html>
<head>
<style>

.container {
  position: relative;
}

.black-box {
  position: relative;
  z-index: 1;
  border: 2px solid black;
  height: 100px;
  margin: 30px;
}

.gray-box {
  position: absolute;
  z-index: 3;
  background: lightgray;
  height: 60px;
  width: 70%;
  left: 50px;
  top: 50px;
}

.green-box {
  position: absolute;
  z-index: 2;
  background: lightgreen;
```

```
width: 35%;
left: 270px;
top: -15px;
height: 100px;
}
</style>
</head>
<body>

<div class="container">
<div class="black-box">Black box</div>
<div class="gray-box">Gray box</div>
<div class="green-box">Green box</div>
</div>

</body>
</html>
```

[Try it Yourself »](#)

Without z-index

If two positioned elements overlap each other without a **z-index** specified, the element defined **last in the HTML code** will be shown on top.

Example

Same example as above, but here with no z-index specified:

```
<html>
<head>
<style>

.container {
  position: relative;
}

.black-box {
  position: relative;
  border: 2px solid black;
  height: 100px;
  margin: 30px;
}
```

```
.gray-box {
  position: absolute;
  background: lightgray;
  height: 60px;
  width: 70%;
  left: 50px;
  top: 50px;
}

.green-box {
  position: absolute;
  background: lightgreen;
  width: 35%;
  left: 270px;
  top: -15px;
  height: 100px;
}
</style>
</head>
<body>

<div class="container">
<div class="black-box">Black box</div>
<div class="gray-box">Gray box</div>
<div class="green-box">Green box</div>
</div>

  </body>
</html>
Try it Yourself »
```

Test Yourself With Exercises

Exercise:

Both the header and the paragraph are positioned at the top of the page.

Make sure that the header is placed on top of the paragraph.

```
<style>
{
  position: absolute;
  top: 0;
  : 1;
}
{
  position: absolute;
  top: 0;
  : 0;
}
</style>

<body>
  <h1 id="mytitle">This is a heading</h1>
  <p id="myintro">This is a paragraph</p>
</body>
```

[Start the Exercise](#)

CSS Property

Property	Description
<u>z-index</u>	Sets the stack order of an element