# Learn CSS Layout

No layout:

Having no layout whatsoever is almost ok if all you want is one big column of content. However, if a user makes the browser window really wide, it gets kind of annoying to read: after each line your eyes have a long distance to travel right-to-left to the next line. Try resizing your browser to see what I mean!

Before we fix this problem, let's make sure we're clear on the very important display property.

# The "display" property:

Display property CSS's most important property for controlling layout. Every element has a default display value depending on what type of element it is. The default for most elements is usually block or inline. A block element is often called a *block-level* element. An inline element is always just called an inline element.

block

# div is the standard block-level element. A block-level element starts on a new line and stretches out to the left and right as far as it can. Other common block-level elements are p and form, and new in HTML5 are header, footer, section, and more.

inline

span is the standard inline element. An inline element can wrap some text inside a paragraph <span> like this </span> without disrupting the flow of that paragraph. Theanchor element (a) is the most common inline element, since you use them for links.

none

Another common display value is none. Some specialized elements such as script use this as their default. It is commonly used with JavaScript to hide and show elements without really deleting and recreating them.

This is different from visibility. Setting display to none will render the page as though the element does not exist. visibility: hidden; will hide the element, but the element will still take up the space it would if it was fully visible.

# Example:

<!DOCTYPE html>

<html>

<head>

<style>

span{

display: block

}

p{

display: inline

}

</style>

</head>

<body>

<span>This is a paragraph.</span>

<span>This is a paragraph.</span>

<p>This is a paragraph.</p>

<p>This is a paragraph.</p>

<p>This is a paragraph.</p>

</body>

</html>

Example:

display:none means that the tag in question will not appear on the page at all (although you can still interact with it through the DOM). There will be no space allocated for it between the other tags.

visibility:hidden means that unlike display:none, the tag is not visible, but space is allocated for it on the page. The tag is rendered, it just isn't seen on the page.

Example code:

text | <span style="[style-tag-value]">Appropriate style in this tag</span> | text

Replacing [style-tag-value] with display:none results in:

text |   | text

Replacing [style-tag-value] with visibility:hidden results in:

text |                        | text

*Block elements-*

article, asisde, blockquote, body, br, button, canvas, caption, col, colgroup, dd, div, dl, dt, embed, fieldset,figcaption, figure, footer, form, h1-h6, header, hgroup, hr, li, map, object, ol, output, p, pre, section, table, tbody, textarea, tfoot, th, thead, tr, ul, video

*Inline elements-*

a, abbr, address, area, audio, bm, cite, code, del, details, dfn, command, datalist, em, font, i, iframe, img, input, ins, kbd, label, legend, link, mark, meter, nav, optgroup, option, q, small, select, source, span, strong, sub, summary, sup, tbody, td, time, var