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[Course](#) > [Modul...](#) > [4.2 The...](#) > The ali...

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The alignment property

The alignment property

One of the simplest ways to align content is to use the direct `text-align` property. This can help you set the alignment of text or inline content within the context of their containing HTML element.

text-align

Documentation

```
1. h1 {  
2.     text-align: center;  
3. }
```

If you have used a text editor before, like Microsoft Word, you've probably used the different text-align properties: left (default for English), right, center and justify. Text-align in CSS works the same way. Left, center and right specify how the lines of text within the text block are arranged. Justify sets the left and right edges of the text flush with the container's edges, which stretches the white space between words so that the overall block fits in a perfect rectangle.

See below for examples of what each of these values will do to your text:

Left

If you have used a text editor before, like Microsoft Word, you've probably used the different text-align properties: left (default for English), right, center and justify.

Right

If you have used a text editor before, like Microsoft Word, you've probably used the different text-align properties: left (default for English), right, center and justify.

Center

If you have used a text editor before, like Microsoft Word, you've probably used the different text-align properties: left (default for English), right, center and justify.

Justify

If you have used a text editor before, like Microsoft Word, you've probably used the different text-align properties: left (default for English), right, center and justify.

Note that this property can only apply to block elements like paragraphs, divs and headers.

line-height

Documentation

```
1. h1 {  
2.     line-height: 1.2;  
3. }
```

You may have noticed that the text-align property sets the content's alignment horizontally, but it leaves its vertical alignment unchanged. Text lives within a specified vertical space, in which the text is drawn by default in the middle of that vertical space. If

you change the height of the containing HTML block, the text will remain at the top of the block. However, if you instead use the "line-height" property, then the block will grow and the text will vertically center within it.

HTML	CSS	Result	EDIT ON
<pre><!DOCTYPE html> <!--It's a best practice to always declare DOCTYPE!--> <html lang="en"> <head> <title>Aligning text </title> <meta charset="utf-8"> </head> <body> <h1>this is a centered header</h1> <h2>this is a right aligned header</h2></pre>		<p>this is a centered header</p> <p>this is a right aligned header</p> <p>Here is a big block of text illustrating the use of the text-align justify setting. As you can see it stretches the white space between the words so that the left and right edges of the paragraph fit well within a box. This can help your text look cleaner than a simple left alignment. Note that it does not stretch out the final line in the paragraph.</p>	
Resources		1x 0.5x 0.25x	Rerun

... and the resulting output:

this is a centered header

this is a right aligned header

Here is a big block of text illustrating the usage of the text-align justify setting. As you can see it stretches the white space between the words so that the left and right edges of the paragraph fit well within a box. This can help your text look cleaner than a simple left alignment. Note that it does not stretch out the final line in the paragraph.

this header's line height is stretched to 1.2

this header is aligned to the baseline of the line height within a stretched containing box

INTERNATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Please do not use `text-align` indiscriminately. If there's a possibility that your site will need to be translated into a language that uses the Arabic, Hebrew, or Thaana scripts (which read from right to left), it creates difficulties to have to change all the `right` values to `left` and vice versa.

Most, but not yet all, major browsers support the values `start` and `end`. The `start` value aligns text with the side of the line where you start reading, whether that's on the left for English or the right for Urdu. They also make more sense for use with vertical text, such as for Japanese and Mongolian. Once these values are widely supported by browsers, they will often be a better choice than `right` and `left`, since there's no need to change the values for pages as the language changes.

Also, note that CSS will in the future provide better support for justification in languages where words are not separated by spaces, such as Chinese and Thai, or languages where words are separated by special marks, such as in Amharic. For more information about different approaches to justification, see [this article](#).

Once you finish this course, look out for these and other international features of CSS as you explore its features further.

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