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Padding and margin
Positioning with padding and margin

Whenever possible, it is ideal to position your elements by adjusting their padding and margins. Sometimes this isn't enough to get the element exactly where you'd like it to be, so we'll learn more tools later in this module. Regardless, you'll almost always want some padding and margin around your element so it's best to adjust these before progressing onto more complicated positioning methods.

Once you have set the width for your element, then you can set margins as a way to position your element relative to others. One of the most commonly used margin settings is "`auto`". That is because if you set an element's left and right margin to auto it will be dynamically centered within its containing block.

```
1. div {
2.     width: 50%;
```

```
3.      margin-left: auto;
4.      margin-right: auto;
5.  }
```

However, note that this only works for block HTML elements like paragraphs, divs and headers. If you want to use this to position an inline element, such as `img` or `a`, you will need to tell CSS to treat them as block elements by setting `display: block;`

```
1.  img {
2.      display: block;
3.      width: 200px;
4.      margin-left: auto;
5.      margin-right: auto;
6.  }
```

EDIT ON

| HTML | CSS | Result |

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<!--It's a best practice to always declare DOCTYPE!-->
<html lang="en">
  <head>
    <meta charset="utf-8">
  </head>
  <body>
    <h1>this is a centered header</h1>
    <p>
      <a href="www.microsoft.com">centered link within a p</a>
    </p>
    <section>
```

Resources

Here is what the above code looks like in a wide window:

this is a centered header

centered link
within a p

here is text in a centered section on top of the inner div
centered div text within a centered div
and here is text in a centered section below the inner div

Now, if you resize the window, the elements remain centered no matter what. Here is the above code in a narrow window:

this is a
centered
header

centered link
within a p

here is text in a centered
section on top of the inner
div
centered div
text within a
centered div
and here is text in a centered
section below the inner div

External resources:

- A W3C CSS tip: CSS centering things, on different ways to center your content.

- A "CSS Tricks" article on What you should know about collapsing margins

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