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CSS Navigation Bar

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Demo: Navigation Bars

Vertical

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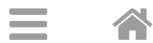
Horizontal

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Navigation Bars

Having easy-to-use navigation is important for any web site.

With CSS you can transform boring HTML menus into good-looking navigation bars.



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A navigation bar needs standard HTML as a base.

In our examples we will build the navigation bar from a standard HTML list.

A navigation bar is basically a list of links, so using the `` and `` elements makes perfect sense:

Example

```
<ul>
  <li><a href="default.asp">Home</a></li>
  <li><a href="news.asp">News</a></li>
  <li><a href="contact.asp">Contact</a></li>
  <li><a href="about.asp">About</a></li>
</ul>
```

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Now let's remove the bullets and the margins and padding from the list:

Example

```
ul {
  list-style-type: none;
  margin: 0;
  padding: 0;
}
```

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Example explained:

- `list-style-type: none;` - Removes the bullets. A navigation bar does not need list markers
- Set `margin: 0;` and `padding: 0;` to remove browser default settings

The code in the example above is the standard code used in both vertical, and horizontal navigation bars.



Vertical Navigation Bar

To build a vertical navigation bar, you can style the `<a>` elements inside the list, in addition to the code above:

Example

```
li a {  
    display: block;  
    width: 60px;  
}
```

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Example explained:

- `display: block;` - Displaying the links as block elements makes the whole link area clickable (not just the text), and it allows us to specify the width (and padding, margin, height, etc. if you want)
- `width: 60px;` - Block elements take up the full width available by default. We want to specify a 60 pixels width

You can also set the width of ``, and remove the width of `<a>`, as they will take up the full width available when displayed as block elements. This will produce the same result as our previous example:

Example

```
ul {  
    list-style-type: none;  
    margin: 0;  
    padding: 0;  
    width: 60px;  
}
```

```
}
```

Try it Yourself »

Vertical Navigation Bar Examples

Create a basic vertical navigation bar with a gray background color and change the background color of the links when the user moves the mouse over them:

Home

News

Contact

About

Example

```
ul {  
    list-style-type: none;  
    margin: 0;  
    padding: 0;  
    width: 200px;  
    background-color: #f1f1f1;  
}  
  
li a {  
    display: block;  
    color: #000;  
    padding: 8px 16px;  
    text-decoration: none;  
}  
  
/* Change the link color on hover */  
li a:hover {  
    background-color: #555;  
    color: white;  
}
```



Active/Current Navigation Link

Add an "active" class to the current link to let the user know which page he/she is on:

Home

News

Contact

About

Example

```
.active {  
    background-color: #4CAF50;  
    color: white;  
}
```

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Center Links & Add Borders

Add `text-align:center` to `` or `<a>` to center the links.

Add the `border` property to `` add a border around the navbar. If you also want borders inside the navbar, add a `border-bottom` to all `` elements, except for the last one:

Home
News
Contact
About

Example

```
border: 1px solid #555;
}

li {
    text-align: center;
    border-bottom: 1px solid #555;
}

li:last-child {
    border-bottom: none;
}
```

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Full-height Fixed Vertical Navbar

Create a full-height, "sticky" side navigation:

Home

News

Contact

About

Fixed Full-height Side Nav

Try to scroll this area, and see how the sidenav sticks to the page

Some text..

Some text..

Some text..

Example

```
ul {
    list-style-type: none;
    margin: 0;
    padding: 0;
    width: 25%;
    background-color: #f1f1f1;
    height: 100%; /* Full height */
```

```
content */  
}
```

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Note: This example might not work properly on mobile devices.

Horizontal Navigation Bar

There are two ways to create a horizontal navigation bar. Using **inline** or **floating** list items.

Inline List Items

One way to build a horizontal navigation bar is to specify the `` elements as inline, in addition to the "standard" code above:

Example

```
li {  
    display: inline;  
}
```

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Example explained:

- `display: inline;` - By default, `` elements are block elements. Here, we remove the line breaks before and after each list item, to display them on one line

Floating List Items

Another way of creating a horizontal navigation bar is to float the `` elements, and specify a layout for the navigation links:

Example

```
float: left;  
}  
  
a {  
    display: block;  
    padding: 8px;  
    background-color: #cccccc;  
}
```

[Try it Yourself »](#)

Example explained:

- `float: left;` - use float to get block elements to slide next to each other
- `display: block;` - Displaying the links as block elements makes the whole link area clickable (not just the text), and it allows us to specify padding (and height, width, margins, etc. if you want)
- `padding: 8px;` - Since block elements take up the full width available, they cannot float next to each other. Therefore, specify some padding to make them look good
- `background-color: #cccccc;` - Add a gray background-color to each a element

Tip: Add the background-color to `` instead of each `<a>` element if you want a full-width background color:

Example

```
ul {  
    background-color: #cccccc;  
}
```

[Try it Yourself »](#)

Horizontal Navigation Bar Examples

Create a basic horizontal navigation bar with a dark background color and change the background color of the links when the user moves the mouse over them:

[Home](#) [News](#) [Contact](#) [About](#)



```
ul {  
    list-style-type: none;  
    margin: 0;  
    padding: 0;  
    overflow: hidden;  
    background-color: #333;  
}  
  
li {  
    float: left;  
}  
  
li a {  
    display: block;  
    color: white;  
    text-align: center;  
    padding: 14px 16px;  
    text-decoration: none;  
}  
  
/* Change the link color to #111 (black) on hover */  
li a:hover {  
    background-color: #111;  
}
```

Try it Yourself »

Active/Current Navigation Link

Add an "active" class to the current link to let the user know which page he/she is on:

Home News Contact About

Example

```
.active {  
    background-color: #4CAF50;
```

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Right-Align Links

Right-align links by floating the list items to the right (`float:right;`):

[Home](#) [News](#) [Contact](#)[About](#)

Example

```
<ul>
  <li><a href="#home">Home</a></li>
  <li><a href="#news">News</a></li>
  <li><a href="#contact">Contact</a></li>
  <li style="float:right"><a class="active" href="#about">About</a>
</li>
</ul>
```

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Border Dividers

Add the `border-right` property to `` to create link dividers:

[Home](#) [News](#) [Contact](#) [About](#)

Example

```
/* Add a gray right border to all list items, except the last item
(last-child) */
li {
  border-right: 1px solid #bbb;
}
```

{

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Fixed Navigation Bar

Make the navigation bar stay at the top or the bottom of the page, even when the user scrolls the page:

Home News Contact

Some text some text some text some text...

Some text some text some text some text..

Some text some text some text some text..

Some text some text some text some text..

Fixed Top

```
ul {  
    position: fixed;  
    top: 0;  
    width: 100%;  
}
```

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Fixed Bottom Nav

The navigation bar will stay at the bottom of the page while scrolling

Some text some text some text some text..

Home News Contact

Fixed Bottom

```
ul {  
    position: fixed;  
    bottom: 0;  
    width: 100%;  
}
```

[Try it Yourself »](#)

Note: Fixed position might not work properly on mobile devices.

Gray Horizontal Navbar

An example of a gray horizontal navigation bar with a thin gray border:

Home News Contact About

Example

```
ul {  
    border: 1px solid #e7e7e7;  
    background-color: #f3f3f3;  
}  
  
li a {
```

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Sticky Navbar

Add `position: sticky;` to `` to create a sticky navbar.

A sticky element toggles between relative and fixed, depending on the scroll position. It is positioned relative until a given offset position is met in the viewport - then it "sticks" in place (like `position:fixed`).

Scroll Down

Scroll down to see the sticky effect.

[Home](#) [News](#) [Contact](#)

Sticky Navigation Example

Example

```
ul {  
  position: -webkit-sticky; /* Safari */  
  position: sticky;  
  top: 0;  
}
```

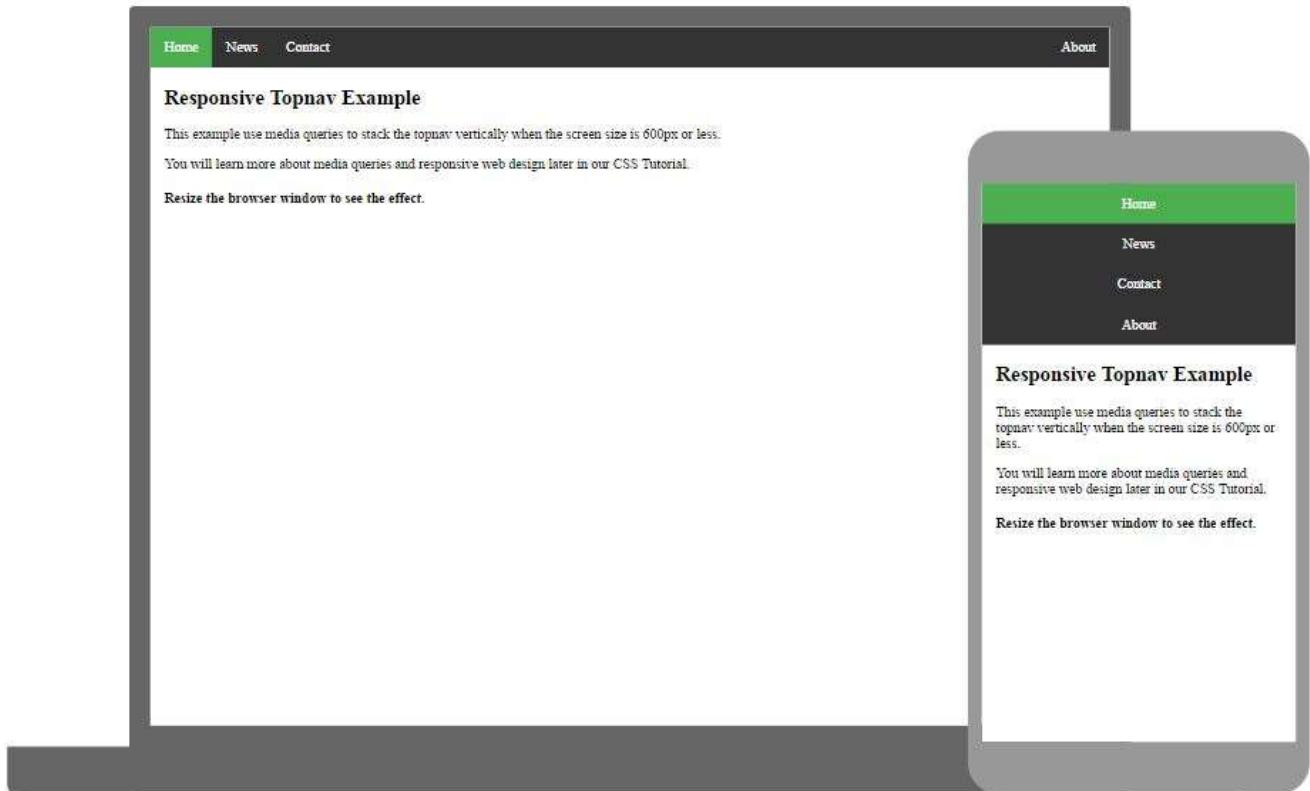
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specify at least one of `top`, `right`, `bottom` or `left` for sticky positioning to work.

More Examples

Responsive Topnav

How to use CSS media queries to create a responsive top navigation.



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Responsive Sidenav

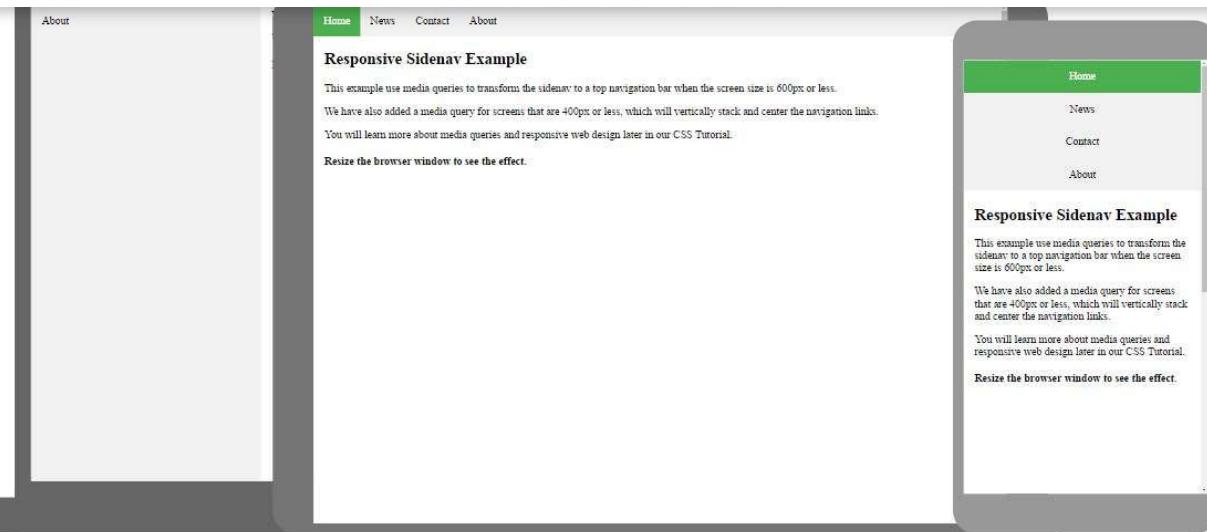
How to use CSS media queries to create a responsive side navigation.



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Dropdown Navbar

How to add a dropdown menu inside a navigation bar.

[Home](#) [News](#) [Dropdown](#)

Dropdown Menu inside a Navigation Bar

Hover over the "Dropdown" link to see the dropdown menu.

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