



Activity | Relative, Absolute, & Fixed Positioning Activity

🕒 ~20 min | 👤 Solo | 💻 Laptop

Overview

Positioning elements can be complicated, but it's important to understand how to position items within a design. The complexity can increase when there are more elements on a page and you have to decide how they will flow and interact.

In this activity, you will be applying three of the positioning properties we just discussed in class: **relative**, **absolute**, and **fixed**.

Instructions

1. Open **index.html** located in Activities / 03_Positioning_Relative_Absolute and **index.css** located in Activities / 03_Positioning_Relative_Absolute / css.
2. Add the **position: absolute** property to the **.absolute** selector in **index.css**. Save your **index.css** file and open **index.html** in a browser.
 - "Nothing changed!" said the student.
 - Elements that have a position declared **must** have other properties (**top**, **left**, **bottom**, etc.) declared to properly place them on a page.
3. Add the **top: 0;** and **left: 0;** properties to the **.absolute** selector.
 - Notice the difference this time. The red box is now positioned **absolutely** in the top left of the browser window.
 - Why? **An absolutely positioned element is positioned to its nearest positioned ancestor.** In this case, it's the browser window. Let's fix this by adding a position to this element's parent container (the **<section>** element in **index.html**)

4. Add the `position: relative;` property to the `.relative` selector.
 - Save your file and reload your browser. Your absolutely positioned element (the red box) is now positioned absolutely within its relatively positioned parent.
5. Let's edit some existing properties from within our browser. Inspect the red box and remove the `top: 0;` and `left: 0;` properties. Add the properties `bottom: 0;` and `right: 0;`.
 - Your browser's built-in inspector is a handy tool to inspect and edit CSS properties without having to open an editor.
 - Try other direction properties to see how this element moves in relation to its positioned parent.
6. Lastly, add the `position: fixed; bottom: 0; right: 0;` properties to the `.fixed` selector.
 - Save your changes and reload the page to see the changes. Note how the fixed element stays in place as you scroll.

