

2. Bootstrap Navigation Bars

<http://getbootstrap.com/components/#navbar>

Navbars are far, far more complicated than buttons. **You should not feel obligated to memorize everything.** Remember - even professional programmers don't. The documentation isn't there to teach you, but also to guide you along when you're developing. Professionals still use documentation every day.

The reason I'm saying this is because navigation bars are significantly, and I mean *significantly*, more complicated than buttons. While buttons were simple and you could simply apply a few classes to these buttons, navigation bars have many many more components to it and the code for navbars could get very lengthy.

Let's get right into it.

First, we need a region to define as the navigation bar. We do this by adding the following code. Note that we have a `container-fluid` within the `<nav>` tags. These are the containers that holds all of the content necessary for the navigation bar.

```
1 <nav class="navbar navbar-default">
2   <div class="container-fluid">
3     <!-- Content goes here -->
4   </div>
5 </nav>
```

Before we add the content, we need to add both the **brand** and the **hamburger menu**. The brand is basically what you usually see at the top left. If you go to the Mindspark website, you'll see the Mindspark logo at the top left. That's our brand.

The hamburger menu is something that pops up if the webpage becomes too narrow. When the webpage becomes small to the point where there isn't enough space at the top bar, it all collapses into this hamburger menu. We call it this because it looks like a hamburger. A photo of the menu button is on the left. If you click on it, all the links pop up. Try resizing the Mindspark website and testing the hamburger menu there out. Note: You need the javascript plugin to open this and the dropdown menu (introduced later).



The implementation for these are quite complicated. We will walk through them step by step in the comments in the code (New content is in the yellow section):

```

1  <nav class="navbar navbar-default">
2    <div class="container-fluid">
3      <!-- Brand and toggle get grouped for better mobile display -->
4      <div class="navbar-header">
5        <!-- The outside button for the hamburger menu -->
6        <button type="button" class="navbar-toggle collapsed"
7        data-toggle="collapse" data-target="#bs-example-navbar-collapse-1"
8        aria-expanded="false">
9          <!-- The icons for the hamburger menu. Three spans for the three bars
10         in the menu. Go to the Bootstrap official website to figure out how to put
11         links inside this menu. -->
12          <span class="sr-only">Toggle navigation</span>
13          <span class="icon-bar"></span>
14          <span class="icon-bar"></span>
15          <span class="icon-bar"></span>
16        </button>
17        <!-- The brand. -->
18        <a class="navbar-brand" href="#">
19          Brand <!-- If you want an image brand, replace this word "Brand" with
20          the image of your choosing. -->
21        </a>
22      </div>
23    </div>
24  </nav>

```

Alright! Let's work on the content inside the navigation bar itself. Again, it will be explained through comments. The new new code is in the highlighted area:

```

1  <nav class="navbar navbar-default">
2    <div class="container-fluid">
3      <div class="navbar-header">
4        <button type="button" class="navbar-toggle collapsed"
5        data-toggle="collapse" data-target="#bs-example-navbar-collapse-1"
6        aria-expanded="false">
7          <span class="sr-only">Toggle navigation</span>
8          <span class="icon-bar"></span>
9          <span class="icon-bar"></span>
10         <span class="icon-bar"></span>

```

```

11     </button>
12     <a class="navbar-brand" href="#">Brand</a>
13 </div>
14
15     <!-- Collect the nav links, forms, and other content for toggling. This
16 div is necessary so when the navbar gets too small, all the content inside
17 this div is collapsed into the hamburger menu. -->
18     <div class="collapse navbar-collapse" id="bs-example-navbar-collapse-1">
19
20         <!-- Unordered list. Every list item in this list will be on the
21 navigation bar. Cool, huh? -->
22         <ul class="nav navbar-nav">
23
24             <!-- The first navbar item. The class="active" gives it the active,
25 pressed effect. -->
26             <li class="active"><a href="#">Link <span
27 class="sr-only">(current)</span></a></li>
28
29             <!-- The second, unpressed navbar item. -->
30             <li><a href="#">Link</a></li>
31
32             <!-- The dropdown menu. This is a link that activates another list
33 (the dropdown). -->
34             <li class="dropdown">
35                 <!-- The link that activates the dropdown list. -->
36                 <a href="#" class="dropdown-toggle" data-toggle="dropdown"
37 role="button" aria-haspopup="true" aria-expanded="false">Dropdown <span
38 class="caret"></span></a>
39                 <!-- The list inside the dropdown menu. Works similarly to the lists
40 in the navbar. -->
41                 <ul class="dropdown-menu">
42                     <li><a href="#">Action</a></li>
43                     <li><a href="#">Another action</a></li>
44                     <li><a href="#">Something else here</a></li>
45                     <li role="separator" class="divider"></li> <!-- A line separating
46 content. -->
47                     <li><a href="#">Separated link</a></li>
48                     <li role="separator" class="divider"></li>
49                     <li><a href="#">One more separated link</a></li>
50                 </ul>
51             </li> <!-- The end of the dropdown link (it might be kind of hard to
52 follow) -->
53         </ul> <!-- The end of the list in the navigation bar, except for the
54 search bar→

```

```

55
56     <!-- The form for the search bar. Notice how this isn't inside the
57 unordered list within the navbar. Instead, it's inside its own class,
58 "navbar-left", meaning it's floating left inside the navigation bar. -->
59     <form class="navbar-form navbar-left">
60         <div class="form-group">
61             <input type="text" class="form-control" placeholder="Search"> <!--
62 The text form -->
63         </div>
64         <button type="submit" class="btn btn-default">Submit</button> <!-- The
65 search button -->
66     </form>
67 </div><!-- /.navbar-collapse -->
68 </div><!-- /.container-fluid -->
69 </nav>

```

Finally, there is content on the right side of the navigation bar. Here's how you insert that:

```

1  <nav class="navbar navbar-default">
2    <div class="container-fluid">
3      <!-- Brand and toggle get grouped for better mobile display -->
4      <div class="navbar-header">
5        <button type="button" class="navbar-toggle collapsed"
6 data-toggle="collapse" data-target="#bs-example-navbar-collapse-1"
7 aria-expanded="false">
8          <span class="sr-only">Toggle navigation</span>
9          <span class="icon-bar"></span>
10         <span class="icon-bar"></span>
11         <span class="icon-bar"></span>
12       </button>
13       <a class="navbar-brand" href="#">Brand</a>
14     </div>
15
16     <!-- Collect the nav links, forms, and other content for toggling -->
17     <div class="collapse navbar-collapse" id="bs-example-navbar-collapse-1">
18       <ul class="nav navbar-nav">
19         <li class="active"><a href="#">Link <span
20 class="sr-only">(current)</span></a></li>
21         <li><a href="#">Link</a></li>
22         <li class="dropdown">
23           <a href="#" class="dropdown-toggle" data-toggle="dropdown"

```

```

24 role="button" aria-haspopup="true" aria-expanded="false">Dropdown <span
25 class="caret"></span></a>
26     <ul class="dropdown-menu">
27         <li><a href="#">Action</a></li>
28         <li><a href="#">Another action</a></li>
29         <li><a href="#">Something else here</a></li>
30         <li role="separator" class="divider"></li>
31         <li><a href="#">Separated link</a></li>
32         <li role="separator" class="divider"></li>
33         <li><a href="#">One more separated link</a></li>
34     </ul>
35 </li>
36 </ul>
37 <form class="navbar-form navbar-left">
38     <div class="form-group">
39         <input type="text" class="form-control" placeholder="Search">
40     </div>
41     <button type="submit" class="btn btn-default">Submit</button>
42 </form>

```

```

43     <!-- The class "navbar-right" floats this content right. Again, this is
44 the unordered list that contains all the navbar items. -->
45     <ul class="nav navbar-nav navbar-right">
46
47         <!-- The list content has been explained in the previous section. Go
48 check that out if this code makes no sense. -->
49         <li><a href="#">Link</a></li>
50         <li class="dropdown">
51             <a href="#" class="dropdown-toggle" data-toggle="dropdown"
52 role="button" aria-haspopup="true" aria-expanded="false">Dropdown <span
53 class="caret"></span></a>
54             <ul class="dropdown-menu">
55                 <li><a href="#">Action</a></li>
56                 <li><a href="#">Another action</a></li>
57                 <li><a href="#">Something else here</a></li>
58                 <li role="separator" class="divider"></li>
59                 <li><a href="#">Separated link</a></li>
60             </ul>
61         </li>
62     </ul>
63 </div><!-- /.navbar-collapse -->
64 </div><!-- /.container-fluid -->
65 </nav>

```

All of that code should give something that looks like this:

Brand

Link

Link

Dropdown ▾

Link

Dropdown ▾

It doesn't look amazing, but there's no reason you can't modify it! Adding new classes and modifying the CSS of those classes is not prohibited at all. In fact, it's encouraged.

Try copy pasting all of that into a new document and run it. Again, don't feel like you have to memorize all of that. That's ridiculous! If you need anything, as long as you understand how the code works, just copy paste it.

We're not done yet! There are some other things we need to cover. For example...

```
1 <button type="button" class="btn btn-default navbar-btn">Sign  
2 in</button>
```

Put that inside a `` element to put a button inside the navigation bar.

```
1 <p class="navbar-text">Signed in as Mark Otto</p>
```

Put this inside a `` element to create some navigation bar text. The class is there so everything is formatted correctly. If the class weren't there, the text would have no top padding, nor space on the sides. Same goes with the `navbar-btn` class above.

```
1 <nav class="navbar navbar-default navbar-fixed-top">  
2   <div class="container <!-- or container-fluid --> ">  
3     ...  
4   </div>  
5 </nav>
```

The class `navbar-fixed-top` makes it so that, if you scroll down the page, the top bar is fixed, and won't move.

```
1 <nav class="navbar navbar-inverse">  
2   ...
```

3 `</nav>`

This makes the navigation bar black (or the color inverted). Do keep in mind that you can add classes on top of each other, so if you want a fixed and inverse navbar, add the two classes together. You should get:

```
1  <nav class="navbar navbar-default navbar-fixed-top
2  navbar-inverse">
3    <div class="container <!-- or container-fluid --> ">
4      ...
5    </div>
   </nav>
```

Exercises

Exercise 1	Modify your replicated website you worked on a while ago to contain a navigation bar.
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