

Crazy Christmas Website: Behind The Design

The website I designed, titled “Crazy Christmas Website”, is a playable interactive website following a relatively simple design. The page layout throughout the site consists of a header, a body, and a footer, with a red and green colour scheme. The alignment of the body’s elements vary depending on the page, as the content differs across the site.

Basic Website Layout

My website follows a simple layout, consisting of a header, body, and footer. The three containers take rectangular shapes, and distinguish themselves from each other with contrasting colours.

In the header, I employ a larger font size for the website title, ensuring it stands out amongst the other text in size. Contrast is further exhibited through the title’s use of uppercase lettering, compared to the website’s regular use of standard case lettering. The header includes a horizontal navbar, featuring three links organised into an inline unordered list. There is sufficient margin space between the links to clearly distinguish them as three separate options.

While the content of the body varies across pages, certain elements and practices remain consistent. Firstly, each page includes a heading that provides users with an understanding of its content. Secondly, elements like images, buttons, and boxes are outlined with a solid black border for emphasis and contrast against the background. Thirdly, a rounded button style is consistently used so the user can tell which elements are interactive.

The footer follows a similar design to the header, utilising a colour that contrasts with the body, and an unordered list for links.

Colour

The predominant colours of my website are red and green, specifically chosen to reflect the Christmas theme. These colours are strategically complementary, allowing elements of one colour contrast with elements of the other. The underlying background of each page is a soothing pastel green, serving as a backdrop for the red wrapper (header, body, and footer). The complementary relationship between the green background and the red wrapper creates a visually appealing and eye-catching design.

The wrapper itself follows a monochrome colour scheme of different shades of red. The header and footer use a darker red background to contrast with the lighter pastel body. Appropriately shaded text is used for each container; white text is used over the darker backgrounds and black/dark red text is used over the lighter backgrounds.

Finally, green is prominently featured in various body elements, including buttons and images, providing contrast to the red backdrop.

Alignment

The majority of my website employs centred alignment to maintain symmetry. However, since two out of the three pages have minimal page-spanning text, there's significant empty space along the horizontal axis. Centering the elements ensures equal empty space on each side, creating a central column for readers to follow from top to bottom.

Central alignment is also used in the header and footer to maintain consistency with the body. However, there are two instances where I deviate from this design choice. The hidden text in the "Goblin Game" and the entire body of the "Top 5 List" utilise left-hand alignment. This choice is driven by the heavier text content, enhancing readability. Left-hand alignment creates a defined vertical edge, offering readers a consistent starting point on each line. Additionally, the text often spans the entire body container, mitigating concerns about empty space and asymmetry in these instances.