**Difference Between flex, inline-flex in CSS**

Both flex and inline-flex are **display** properties used to create flexible layouts using the Flexbox model. However, the key difference is how they behave in relation to surrounding elements.

**1️⃣ display: flex;**

✅ The element becomes a **block-level flex container**.  
✅ It takes up the **full width** available by default.  
✅ Other elements appear on the **next line** if they are block elements.

**Example:**

<div style="display: flex; border: 2px solid blue;">

<p>Item 1</p>

<p>Item 2</p>

<p>Item 3</p>

</div>

<div style="background-color: lightgray;">This text moves to the next line.</div>

📌 **Behavior:**

* The <div> (flex container) stretches across the width.
* The items inside (p tags) are arranged in a row.
* The next <div> starts **on a new line** (block behavior).

**2️⃣ display: inline-flex;**

✅ The element becomes an **inline flex container**.  
✅ It behaves like inline elements (e.g., <span>, <img>), meaning it **does not take the full width**.  
✅ Other elements can appear **next to it** on the same line.

**Example:**

<div style="display: inline-flex; border: 2px solid red;">

<p>Item 1</p>

<p>Item 2</p>

<p>Item 3</p>

</div>

<span style="background-color: yellow;">This text stays in the same line.</span>

📌 **Behavior:**

* The <div> (flex container) **shrinks to fit** its content.
* The <span> remains **on the same line**, as inline-flex does not force a line break.

**Key Difference Table**

| **Feature** | **display: flex; (Block Flex)** | **display: inline-flex; (Inline Flex)** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Element Type** | Block-level element | Inline-level element |
| **Takes Full Width?** | Yes, by default | No, it only takes necessary space |
| **Other elements on same line?** | No, next elements move to a new line | Yes, next elements stay on the same line |
| **Usage Example** | Layouts like navigation bars, grids, sections | Inline elements like buttons, icons |

**Do it**

<!DOCTYPE html>

<html lang="en">

<head>

<meta charset="UTF-8">

<meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">

<title>Flex vs Inline-Flex</title>

<style>

.flex-box {

display: flex;

border: 2px solid blue;

padding: 10px;

margin-bottom: 10px;

}

.inline-flex-box {

display: inline-flex;

border: 2px solid red;

padding: 10px;

}

.item {

background-color: lightgray;

padding: 5px;

margin: 5px;

}

</style>

</head>

<body>

<!-- Flex Example -->

<div class="flex-box">

<div class="item">Item 1</div>

<div class="item">Item 2</div>

<div class="item">Item 3</div>

</div>

<div>This text moves to a new line because `flex` is block-level.</div>

<br>

<!-- Inline-Flex Example -->

<div class="inline-flex-box">

<div class="item">Item A</div>

<div class="item">Item B</div>

<div class="item">Item C</div>

</div>

<span>This text stays in the same line because `inline-flex` is inline-level.</span>

</body>

</html>