Review Guide: Navigation & Page Layout

Let's review some of the key ideas introduced in this unit. You can also download all this content by clicking on the attached file for future reference.

Key Definitions

Navigation Bar: a section on web page with links to other pages or parts of a site. It can appear as a vertical, horizontal, or alternatively-styled block.

Pseudo-class: a keyword added to selectors that indicates a particular condition of the element in which to apply CSS to the selected element. For example, `:hover` will apply a style when the user hovers over the element specified by the selector.

Nav: A semantic element used to define a set of navigation links.

```
<nav></nav>
```

Clearfix: A technique in CSS to automatically clear after an element. It's generally used in column layouts where elements are floated. It involves giving the floated elements the class "clearfix" and creating a corresponding CSS rule for that class with the pseudo-class `:after`.

```css
.clearfix:after {
    visibility: hidden;
    display: block;
    font-size: 0;
    content: " ";
    clear: both;
    height: 0;
}
```

CSS Reset

There is no true standard for how un-styled HTML elements get rendered in various browsers. In other words, each browser assigns its own padding, margin, line-height, font-size, etc. to every element.

To combat this, we reset the CSS, essentially wiping out all of the default styles and starting with a clean slate.

We've provided an example of a reset.css in the downloadable file attached to this page. Download it and start adding it to your CSS folders.

Always link to reset.css in the head section of your HTML, *above* the link to your main CSS file, as follows:

```html
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
    <title>CSS Reset Links</title>

    <link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="css/reset.css">
    <link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="css/style.css">

</head>
<body>

</body>
</html>
```

Floats and Clears

By default, block elements in HTML stack on top of each other. *Floats* let us change this behavior, allowing elements to sit horizontally on the page.

The CSS property is called `float` and common values are `left`, `right`, and `none` (the default is `none`).

Clears are used when we want to "turn off" floating—essentially preventing elements from flowing around the floating element.

A common method is to use the CSS property `clear` with the value `both`. When this method is ineffective, the *clearfix* method—as seen above—should resolve any issues.

Column Layout

Column layout refers to the design of pages with multiple different block sections at the same vertical height on the page.

Columns are created by wrapping a block of content with a `div` element, applying a `float`, and modifying the padding, margin, and border dimensions to adjust their size.

Questions to Ask Your Mentor

What are some strategies for sketching out my page elements that will make it easy for me to position them on my page using float and clear?

When is it best practice to add an additional column to my page layout? Are there standard practices around column layouts?

How does the inclusion of special effects (i.e. hover state) affect the overall UX (user experience) of my site?

When is the appropriate time in the web design process to introduce floats and clears to my code?

What are some good places to go for feedback or inspiration on page layout?

How do I know when to use `clear:both` versus the clearfix method? Are there other methods for clearing?

Further Reading

List Navigation
http://css-tricks.com/navigation-in-lists-to-be-or-not-to-be/

CSS Reset
http://www.sitepoint.com/css-resets-useful-or-useless/
http://meyerweb.com/eric/thoughts/2007/04/18/reset-reasoning/
http://www.cssreset.com/which-css-reset-should-i-use/

Pseudoclass
http://www.w3schools.com/css/css_pseudo_classes.asp
http://css-tricks.com/pseudo-class-selectors/

Hover
https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/CSS/:hover

Float and Clear
http://learnlayout.com/float.html
http://learnlayout.com/clear.html
http://learnlayout.com/clearfix.html
http://learnlayout.com/float-layout.html
http://css.maxdesign.com.au/floatutorial/
http://css-tricks.com/all-about-floats/
http://www.smashingmagazine.com/2007/05/01/css-float-theory-things-you-should-know/
http://css-tricks.com/the-how-and-why-of-clearing-floats/

Column Layout
http://www.thesitewizard.com/css/design-2-column-layout.shtml
http://www.cssreset.com/creating-a-two-column-fixed-width-css-layout/

DOWNLOADS

Summary

Regulatory Information   Terms   Privacy   Assembled in NYC