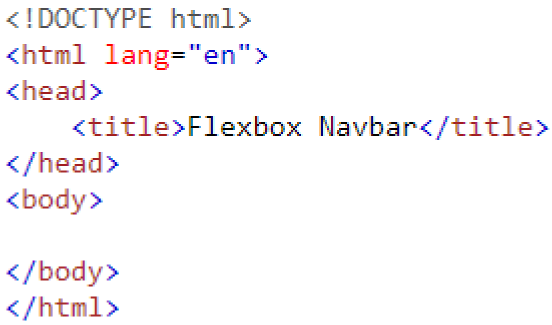
Flexbox Tutorial: Building a Navigation Bar

Contents

Step 1: HTML Setup

Begin by creating the basic HTML structure.

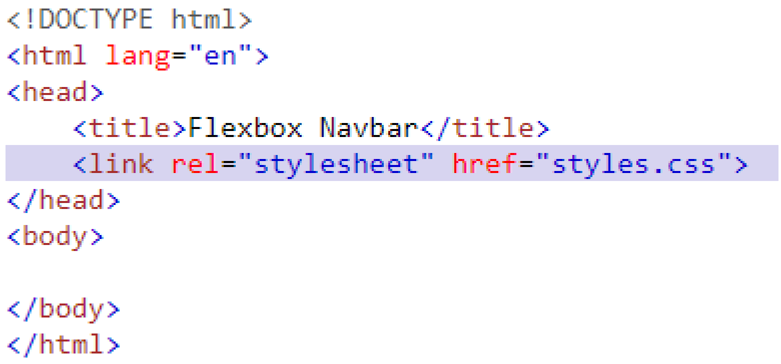


```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
<head>
    <title>Flexbox Navbar</title>
</head>
<body>

</body>
</html>
```

Step 2: Linking CSS

Within the <head> tag, link an external CSS file named styles.css.

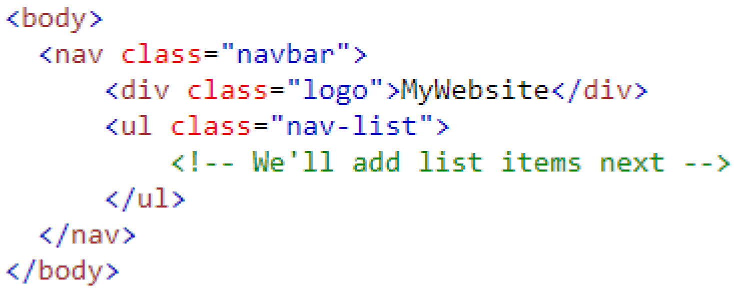


```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
<head>
    <title>Flexbox Navbar</title>
    <link rel="stylesheet" href="styles.css">
</head>
<body>

</body>
</html>
```

Step 3: Setting up Navigation Structure

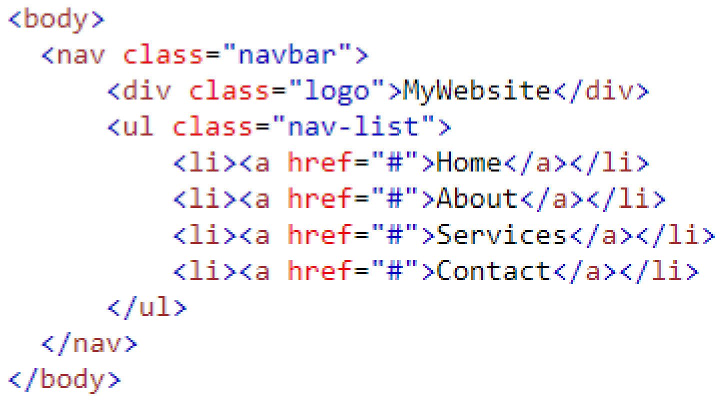
Inside the <body> tag, create the basic structure for our navigation.



```
<body>
  <nav class="navbar">
      <div class="logo">MyWebsite</div>
      <ul class="nav-list">
          <!-- We'll add list items next -->
      </ul>
  </nav>
</body>
```

Step 4: Adding Navigation Links

Within the <ul> element, add four list items (<li>) each containing anchor tags (<a>) for navigation links.



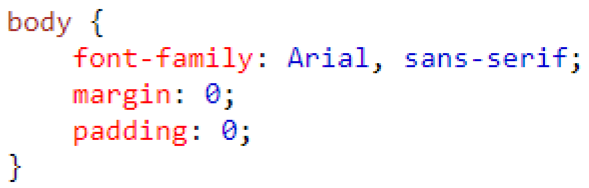
```
<body>
  <nav class="navbar">
      <div class="logo">MyWebsite</div>
      <ul class="nav-list">
          <li><a href="#">Home</a></li>
          <li><a href="#">About</a></li>
          <li><a href="#">Services</a></li>
          <li><a href="#">Contact</a></li>
      </ul>
  </nav>
</body>
```

Step 5: CSS Setup

Create a new file named styles.css for our styles.

Step 6: Resetting Default Styles

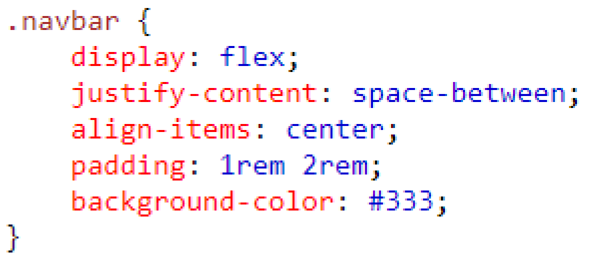
Start by resetting some default styles.



```
body {
    font-family: Arial, sans-serif;
    margin: 0;
    padding: 0;
}
```

Step 7: Activating Flexbox on Navbar

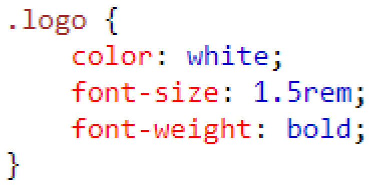
Now, we'll make our navbar a flex container and add some basic styles.



```
.navbar {
    display: flex;
    justify-content: space-between;
    align-items: center;
    padding: 1rem 2rem;
    background-color: #333;
}
```

Step 8: Styling the Logo Area

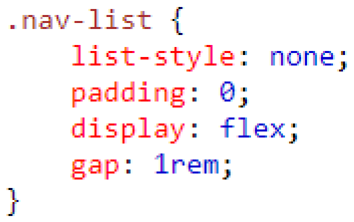
Let's give our logo area some simple styling.



```
.logo {
    color: white;
    font-size: 1.5rem;
    font-weight: bold;
}
```

Step 9: Styling the Navigation List

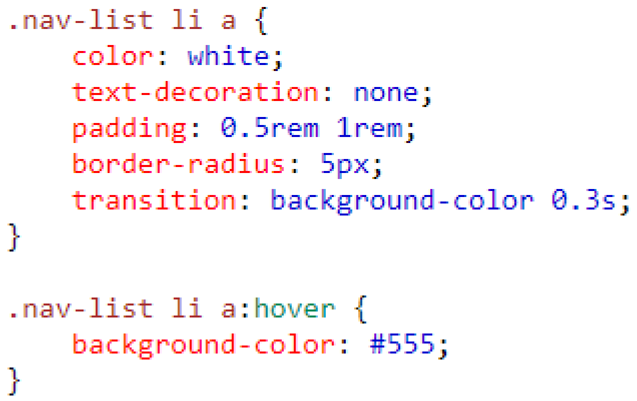
Now, let's style our navigation list and its items.



```
.nav-list {
    list-style: none;
    padding: 0;
    display: flex;
    gap: 1rem;
}
```

Step 10: Styling Individual Navigation Links

Style the individual anchor tags for a better appearance.

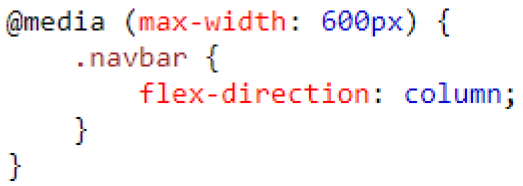


```
.nav-list li a {
    color: white;
    text-decoration: none;
    padding: 0.5rem 1rem;
    border-radius: 5px;
    transition: background-color 0.3s;
}

.nav-list li a:hover {
    background-color: #555;
}
```

Step 11: Making the Navbar Responsive

Using media queries, we'll adjust the layout for smaller screens.



```
@media (max-width: 600px) {
     .navbar {
          flex-direction: column;
     }
}
```

Step 12: Testing

Finally, open the HTML file in your preferred browser. Adjust the browser window's width to see the responsive behaviour. Ensure the styling and layout look as intended.

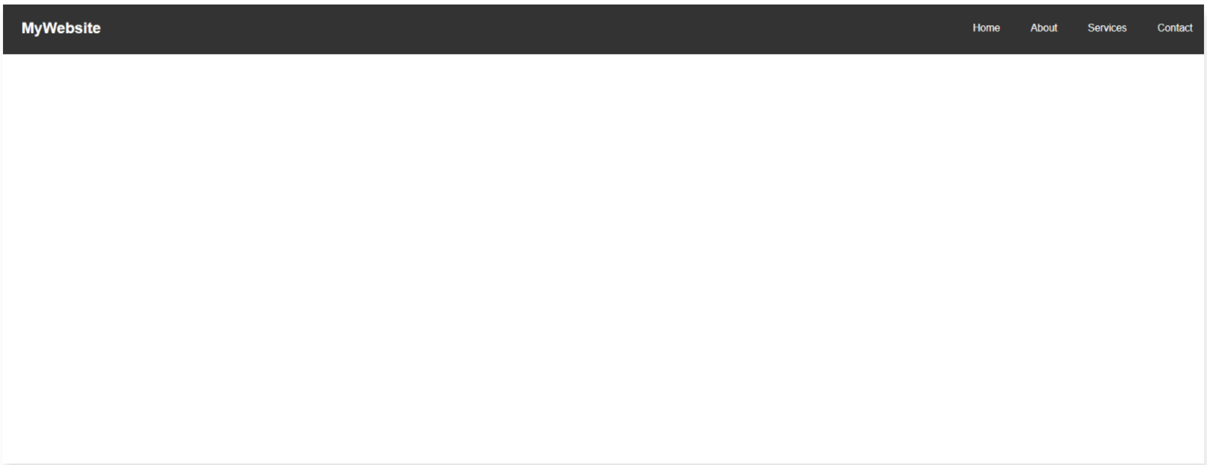


Figure 1: Expected behaviour - Fullscreen Monitor View

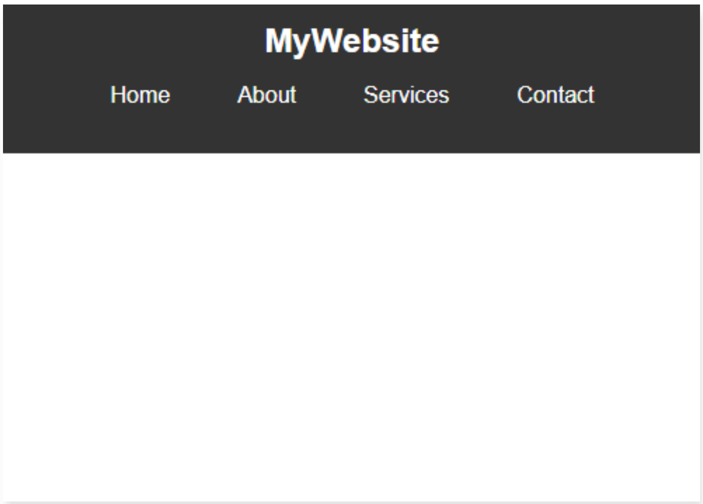


Figure 2: Expected behaviour - Smaller Viewport View