Lesson:

Inline Element vs Block Level Element

PW SKILLS

Inline Element vs Block Level Element

In HTML, elements are categorized as either inline or block elements, which determines how they behave and interact with other elements in terms of layout and formatting. There are also some vertical margins and other CSS differences that we will discuss in detail in the CSS module.

Let us see the most commonly used tags and whether they are inline or block level elements

- Inline level elements:
  - span
  - a
  - strong
  - em
  - img
  - input

- Block level elements:
  - div
  - main
  - section
  - article
  - p
  - All heading tags (h1-h6)
  - ul
  - li
  - table
  - form

The above list contains the tags that are most commonly used, there are many more tags apart from the ones mentioned above.

Now, the main question is what is the difference between an inline or block element?

Inline Elements: If an element takes up only the required horizontal space and lets another inline element sit next to it then it is an inline element

Ex:

```
Unset
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
  <head>
    <meta charset="UTF-8" />
    <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width,
initial-scale=1.0" />
    <title>Document</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    <span>First Span,</span>
    <span>Second Span,</span>
    <span>Third Span.</span>
  </body>
</html>
```

In the example code above we can see we have 3 span elements placed inside the body with some content in them, if we run this in the browser we will see that the 3 of them are sitting next to each other. Which shows that span is indeed an inline element.

Below is the image of the output

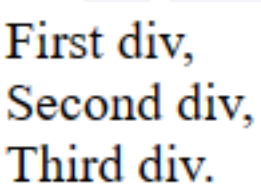
Block Elements: This is the opposite of inline elements. Block-level elements take up the entire horizontal space even if it is not required. Let us see an example of a block element.

Ex:

```
Unset
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
  <head>
    <meta charset="UTF-8" />
    <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width,
initial-scale=1.0" />
    <title>Document</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    <div>First div,</div>
    <div>Second div,</div>
    <div>Third div.</div>
  </body>
</html>
```

In the example code above we can see we have 3 div elements placed inside the body with some content in them, if we run this in the browser we will see that the 3 of them are displayed on a line each. With this, we can say div is a block-level element.

Below is the image of the output



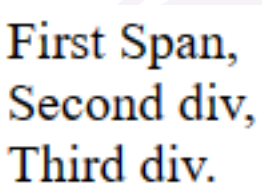
Some of you must be wondering what happens if I have an inline element and a block element next to each other.

Well let us take a look at what happens in that scenario.

Ex:

```
Unset
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
  <head>
    <meta charset="UTF-8" />
    <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width,
initial-scale=1.0" />
    <title>Document</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    <span>First Span,</span>
    <div>Second div,</div>
    <div>Third div.</div>
  </body>
</html>
```

In the above example code, we can see we have 1 span and 2 div elements inside the body. Now let us look at the output which is shown in the image below



So they look exactly like the previous example, which shows a block element will always sit in a new line.

Now are there any ways to make them sit inline? In short, yes we can change their behavior using the CSS display property which we will look at later in the course.

TIP: This is also a very important question that gets asked during the interviews