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## CSS Layout Guides

These articles will provide instruction on the fundamental layout tools and techniques available in CSS. At the end of the lessons is an assessment to help you check your understanding of layout methods, by laying out a webpage.

### Introduction to CSS layout

This article will recap some of the CSS layout features we've already touched upon in previous modules — such as different `display` values — and introduce some of the concepts we'll be covering throughout this module.

### Normal flow

Elements on webpages lay themselves out according to *normal flow* - until we do something to change that. This article explains the basics of normal flow as a grounding for learning how to change it.

### Flexbox

**Flexbox** is a one-dimensional layout method for laying out items in rows or columns. Items flex to fill additional space and shrink to fit into smaller spaces. This article explains all the fundamentals. After studying this guide you can [test your flexbox skills](#) to check your understanding before moving on.

### Grids

CSS Grid Layout is a two-dimensional layout system for the web. It lets you lay content out in rows and columns, and has many features that make building complex layouts

straightforward. This article will give you all you need to know to get started with page layout, then [test your grid skills](#) before moving on.

## Floats

Originally for floating images inside blocks of text, the `float` property became one of the most commonly used tools for creating multiple column layouts on webpages. With the advent of Flexbox and Grid it has now returned to its original purpose, as this article explains.

## Positioning

Positioning allows you to take elements out of the normal document layout flow, and make them behave differently, for example sitting on top of one another, or always remaining in the same place inside the browser viewport. This article explains the different `position` values, and how to use them.

## Multiple-column layout

The multiple-column layout specification gives you a method of laying content out in columns, as you might see in a newspaper. This article explains how to use this feature.

## Responsive design

As more diverse screen sizes have appeared on web-enabled devices, the concept of responsive web design (RWD) has appeared: a set of practices that allows web pages to alter their layout and appearance to suit different screen widths, resolutions, etc. It is an idea that changed the way we design for a multi-device web, and in this article we'll help you understand the main techniques you need to know to master it.

## Beginner's guide to media queries

The **CSS Media Query** gives you a way to apply CSS only when the browser and device environment matches a rule that you specify, for example "viewport is wider than

480 pixels". Media queries are a key part of responsive web design, as they allow you to create different layouts depending on the size of the viewport, but they can also be used to detect other things about the environment your site is running on, for example whether the user is using a touchscreen rather than a mouse. In this lesson you will first learn about the syntax used in media queries, and then move on to use them in a worked example showing how a simple design might be made responsive.

## **Legacy layout methods**

Grid systems are a very common feature used in CSS layouts, and before CSS Grid Layout they tended to be implemented using floats or other layout features. You imagine your layout as a set number of columns (e.g. 4, 6, or 12), and then fit your content columns inside these imaginary columns. In this article we'll explore how these older methods work, in order that you understand how they were used if you work on an older project.

## **Supporting older browsers**

In this module we recommend using Flexbox and Grid as the main layout methods for your designs. However there will be visitors to your site who use older browsers, or browsers which do not support the methods you have used. This will always be the case on the web — as new features are developed, different browsers will prioritise different things. This article explains how to use modern web techniques without locking out users of older technology.

## **Assessment: Fundamental layout comprehension**

An assessment to test your knowledge of different layout methods by laying out a webpage.