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Inline vs Inline-Block Display in CSS

Published on September 3, 2020

CSS

By Alligator.io

> ⓘ   While we believe that this content benefits our community, we have not yet thoroughly
>   reviewed it. If you have any suggestions for improvements, please let us know by clicking
>   the "report an issue" button at the bottom of the tutorial.

Introduction

display: inline-block brought a new way to create side by side boxes that collapse and wrap properly depending on the available space in the containing element. It makes layouts that were previously accomplished with floats easier to create. No need to clear floats anymore.

Compared to display: inline, the major difference is that **inline-block** allows to set a width and height on the element. Also, with display: inline, top and bottom margins & paddings are not respected, and with display: inline-block they are.

Now, the difference between display: inline-block and display: block is that, with **display: block**, a line break happens after the element, so a block element doesn't sit next to other elements. Here are some visual examples:

display: inline

Notice here how the width and height are not respected, and how the padding top and

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```
  height: 160px;
  padding: 18px;
}
```

Cheese and wine ricotta danish fontina. Brie cheesy grin paneer squirty cheese taleggio cheesecake goat taleggio goat taleggio . Bavarian bergkase emmental fromage cheesecake cheese slices cheesy grin queso caerphilly.

display: inline-block

Here the width, height and padding are respected, but the two copies of the element can still sit side by side.

```
span.box {                                                    Copy
  display: inline-block;
  width: 100px;
  height: 160px;
  padding: 18px;
}
```

Cheese and wine ricotta danish fontina. Brie cheesy grin paneer squirty cheese

taleggio cheesecake goat taleggio goat taleggio . Bavarian bergkase emmental

fromage cheesecake cheese slices cheesy grin queso caerphilly.

display: block

Here again everything is respected, but the elements don't sit side by side.

```
span.box {                                                    Copy
```

Cheese and wine ricotta danish fontina. Brie cheesy grin paneer squirty cheese taleggio cheesecake

goat taleggio

goat taleggio

. Bavarian bergkase emmental fromage cheesecake cheese slices cheesy grin queso caerphilly.

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Congratulations on unlocking the whale ambience easter egg! Click the whale button in the bottom left of your screen to toggle some ambient whale noises while you read.
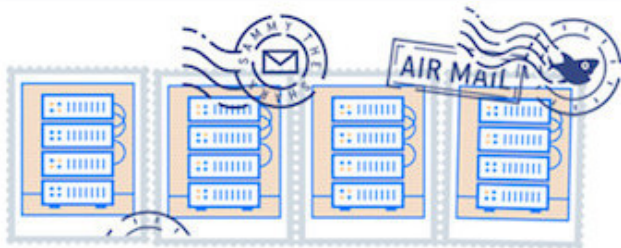
Thank you to the Glacier Bay National Park & Preserve and Merrick079 for the sounds behind this easter egg.

Interested in whales, protecting them, and their connection to helping prevent climate change? We recommend checking out the Whale and Dolphin Conservation.

Reset easter egg to be discovered again / Permanently dismiss and hide easter egg

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