

# HTML span align center not working?

Asked 11 years, 2 months ago Modified 4 years, 3 months ago Viewed 682k times

I have some HTML:

143

```
<div align="center" style="border:1px solid red">
This is some text in a div element!
</div>
```

The Div is changing the spacing on my document, so I want to use a span for this instead.

But span is not centralizing the contents:

```
<span style="border:1px solid red;align=center">
This is some text in a div element!
</span>
```

How do I fix this?

EDIT:

My complete code:

```
<html>
<body>

<p>This is a paragraph. This text has no alignment specified.</p>

<span style="border:1px solid red;text-align=center">
  This is some text in a div element!
</span>

</body>
</html>
```

html

css

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edited Dec 5, 2011 at 21:56

asked Dec 5, 2011 at 21:35



David19801

11k ● 25 ● 83 ● 126

- 1 Your div is "changing the spacing"? What do you mean by this? And your span won't because by default it's an *inline* element, whereas a div is a *block* level element. – Bojangles Dec 5, 2011 at 21:37

▲ Hello JamWaffles, By "spacing" I mean the div adds space above and below the contents. The span does not do this. – [David19801](#) Dec 5, 2011 at 21:38

▲ Use Firebug or the Chrome inspector to see what CSS rules are applied to your element, and look for the one that adds padding or margin. It's also possible the surrounding elements have padding/margin. – [Bojangles](#) Dec 5, 2011 at 21:40

6 ▲ `text-align=center` should be `text-align:center` – [n611x007](#) Aug 26, 2012 at 23:41 ✎

## 7 Answers

Sorted by:

Highest score (default) ▾



239



A div is a block element, and will span the width of the container unless a width is set. A span is an inline element, and will have the width of the text inside it. Currently, you are trying to set align as a CSS property. Align is an attribute.

```
<span align="center" style="border:1px solid red;">
  This is some text in a div element!
</span>
```

However, the align attribute is deprecated. You should use the CSS `text-align` property on the container.

```
<div style="text-align: center;">
  <span style="border:1px solid red;">
    This is some text in a div element!
  </span>
</div>
```

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edited Jun 17, 2013 at 18:10

answered Dec 5, 2011 at 21:41



[Reut Sharabani](#)

30k ● 6 ● 71 ● 87



[Will](#)

19.3k ● 7 ● 47 ● 48

2 ▲ The problem with the 2nd method comes when the container should left-aligned, and then some text inside it should be centered. Similar to [this question](#). I tried the deprecated method since it seems the only way, but it doesn't work in Chromium nor in Firefox. – [Hi-Angel](#) Apr 4, 2021 at 16:10 ✎



62



Please use the following style. `margin:auto` normally used to center align the content. `display:table` is needed for `span` element

```
<span style="margin:auto; display:table; border:1px solid red;">
  This is some text in a div element!
</span>
```



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edited Aug 19, 2013 at 17:26

answered Aug 19, 2013 at 17:21



Chris J

959 ● 8 ● 14



display table works in bootstrap 4 input group addon span – Toma Jul 10, 2022 at 3:56



42



The `align` attribute is deprecated. Use CSS `text-align` instead. Also, the span will not center the text unless you use `display:block` or `display:inline-block` and set a value for the width, but then it will behave the same as a div (block element).

Can you post an example of your layout? Use [www.jsfiddle.net](http://www.jsfiddle.net)



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answered Dec 5, 2011 at 21:41



Jeff Camera

5,264 ● 5 ● 42 ● 59

1



Worked great! Thanks. – dallinchase Nov 26, 2014 at 20:08



Can't I align two inline elements differently while keeping them inline elements? – user5306470 Jan 24, 2016 at 2:09



The `display:block` [makes the text go to a new line](#). The `inline-block` doesn't work at all.  
– Hi-Angel Apr 4, 2021 at 16:53



Yay, I found how to make it work, [see here](#). Basically, the solution is backwards: instead of centering the text you want to center, you left-aligning the text you want not to be in center. @JeffCamera do you mind adding a solution to your answer? – Hi-Angel Apr 4, 2021 at 17:07



15



```
span.login-text {  
  font-size: 22px;  
  display:table;  
  margin-left: auto;  
  margin-right: auto;  
}
```

```
<span class="login-text">Welcome To .....CMP</span>
```

For me it worked very well. try this also

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edited Nov 11, 2018 at 14:43



tanguy\_k

10.9k ● 6 ● 51 ● 57

answered Feb 4, 2016 at 14:34



AIMABLE

845 ● 8 ● 4

On top of all the other explanations, I believe you're using equal "=" sign, instead of colon ":" :

2

```
<span style="border:1px solid red;text-align=center">
```

It should be:

```
<span style="border:1px solid red;text-align:center">
```

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edited Jun 9, 2017 at 21:19

answered Apr 6, 2017 at 9:30



A moskal escaping from  
Russia

32.2k ● 6 ● 38 ● 57



nhazean  
31 ● 1

Span is inline-block and adjusts to inline text size, with a tenacity that blocks most efforts to style out of inline context. To simplify layout style (limit conflicts), add div to 'p' tag with line break.

1

```
<p> some default stuff  
<br>  
<div style="text-align: center;"> your entered stuff </div>
```

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answered May 13, 2015 at 7:44



mark stewart  
401 ● 5 ● 11

Just use `word-wrap:break-word;` in the css. It works.

-10

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edited Jul 15, 2015 at 5:07

answered Jul 14, 2015 at 15:59



ketan  
18.9k ● 42 ● 60 ● 94



mon  
1