

# Starting Out Your UIUX Career

## Module 11 Navigation

**Ali Samanipour**

Jan. 2023

**1**

The Basics

**2**

Tab-bar Navigation

**3**

Sidebar Navigation

**4**

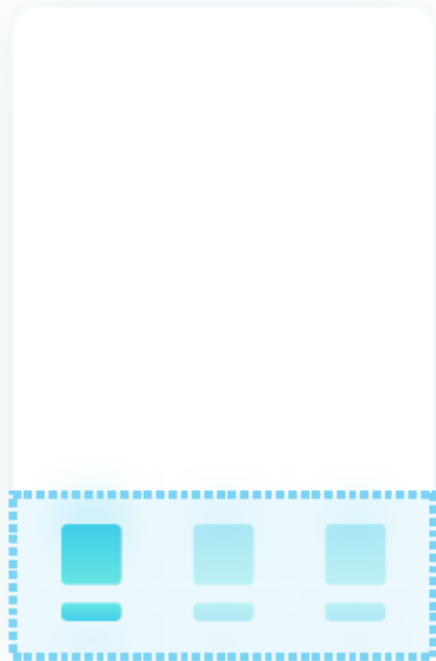
Hidden Navigation

**5**

Contextual Navigation

# The Basics

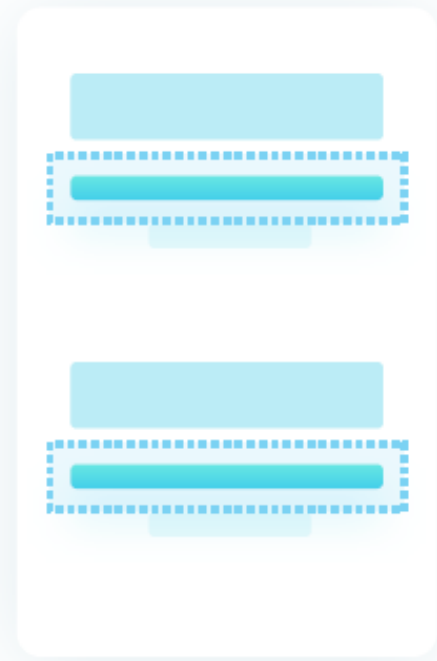
Navigation is an essential part of the User Interface. Even the smallest problems with how it works can lead to massive user drop-offs.



Visible



Hidden



Contextual

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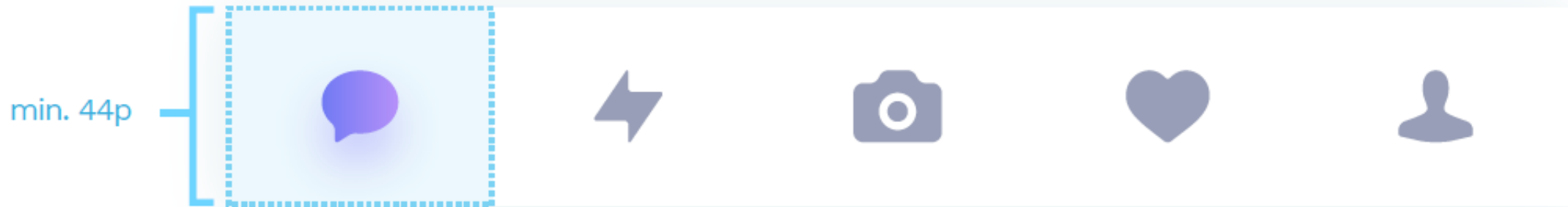
Hidden Navigation

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Contextual Navigation

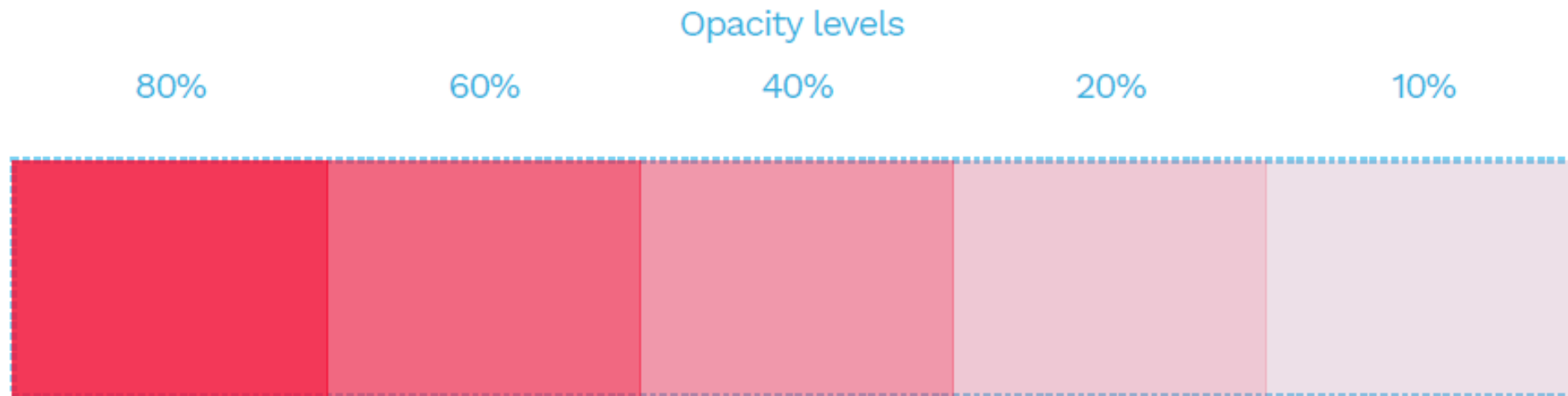
# VISIBLE NAVIGATION (TAB BAR)

Tab Bar is the official name for iOS bottom navigation, but you can use it as a general description of bottom tabs.



# TAB WIDTH

When designing the tab bar, start by dividing your screen width by the number of tabs and create a rectangle guideline for each one



Each element is 1/5 the screen width.

# TAB WIDTH

Do the same with three tabs, setting a different opacity for each rectangle so that you can easily distinguish where they begin and end.

80%

60%

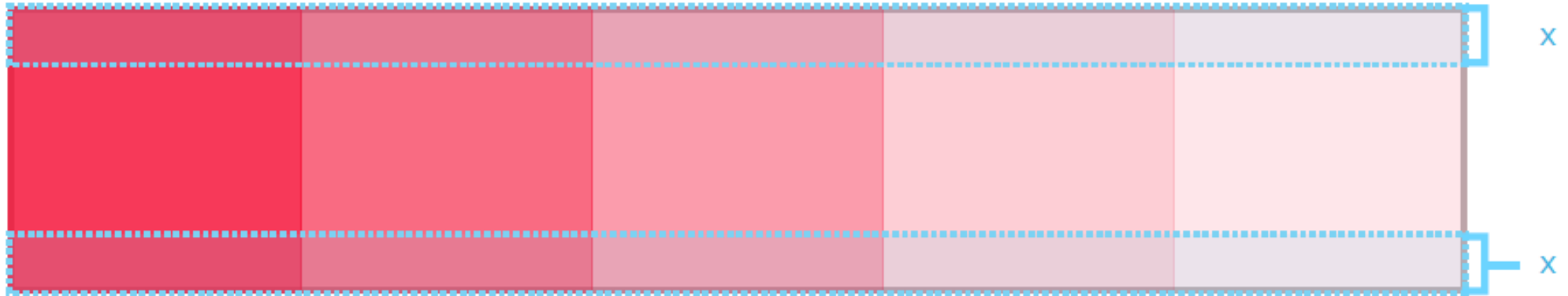
40%



Each element is a third of the screen width.

# TAB WIDTH

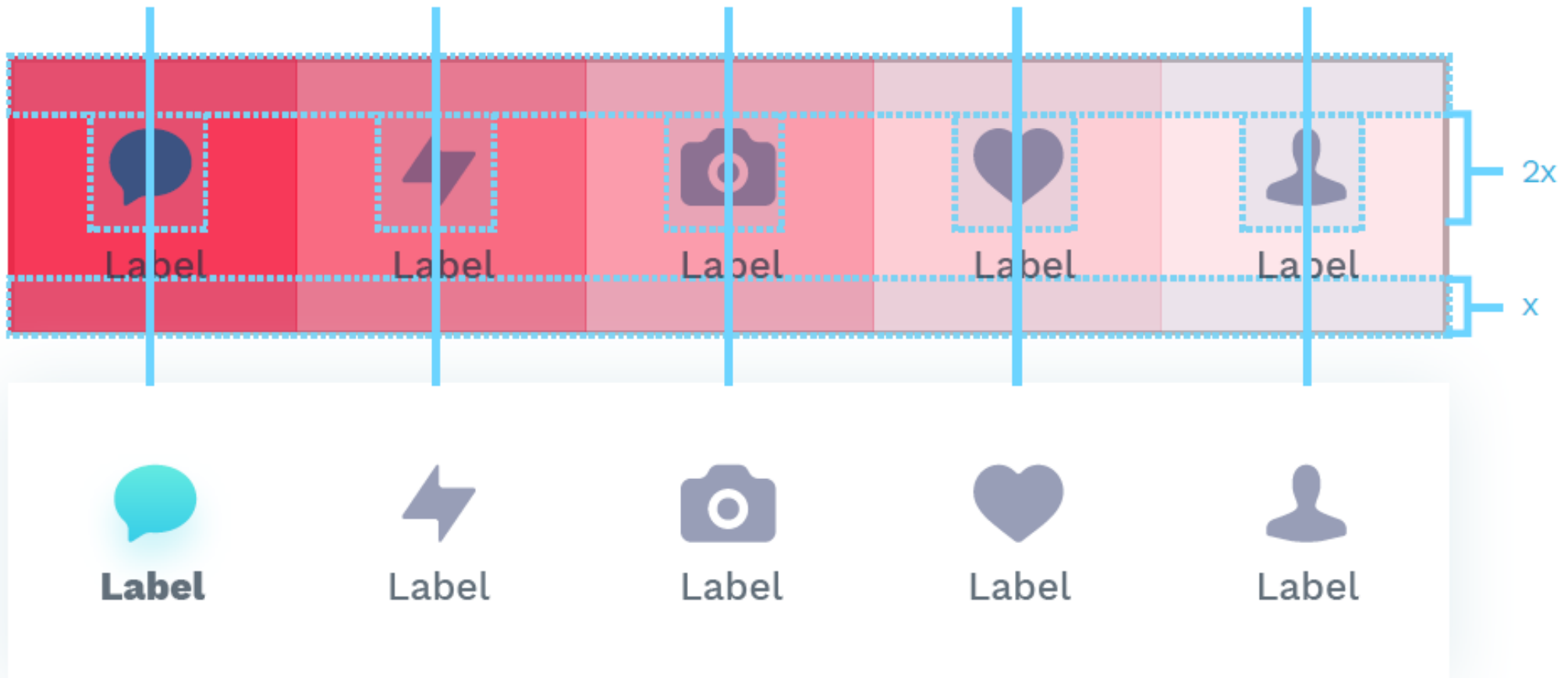
The next step is setting the safe space from the top and bottom edge of your tabs. You can start with your grid base-value (8 or 10) and use that space as your margin.





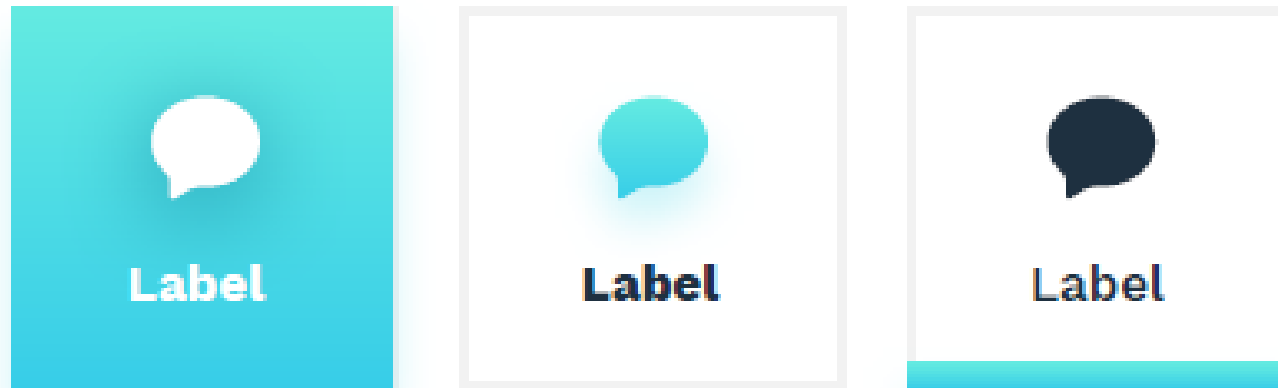
# TAB WIDTH

Now it's time to add your icons and labels. Make sure that the icon safe space is around twice the size of your grid base number (2X).



# ACTIVE TAB

The selected (active) tab should be instantly recognizable.



# ICON ONLY TAB BARS

If you want to keep your app minimal, you can try going with the icons alone



**Chats**

News

Photos

Favorites

Profile

# TEXT BASED TABS

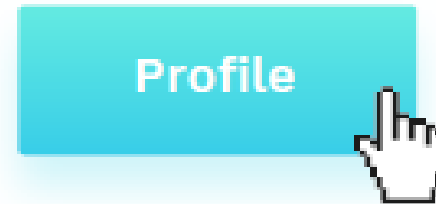
Text tabs are typically placed at the top of the screen. They're an easy way to switch categories, and when they don't fit the screen, you can scroll them left and right.



Active area

Profile

Neutral state



Active state

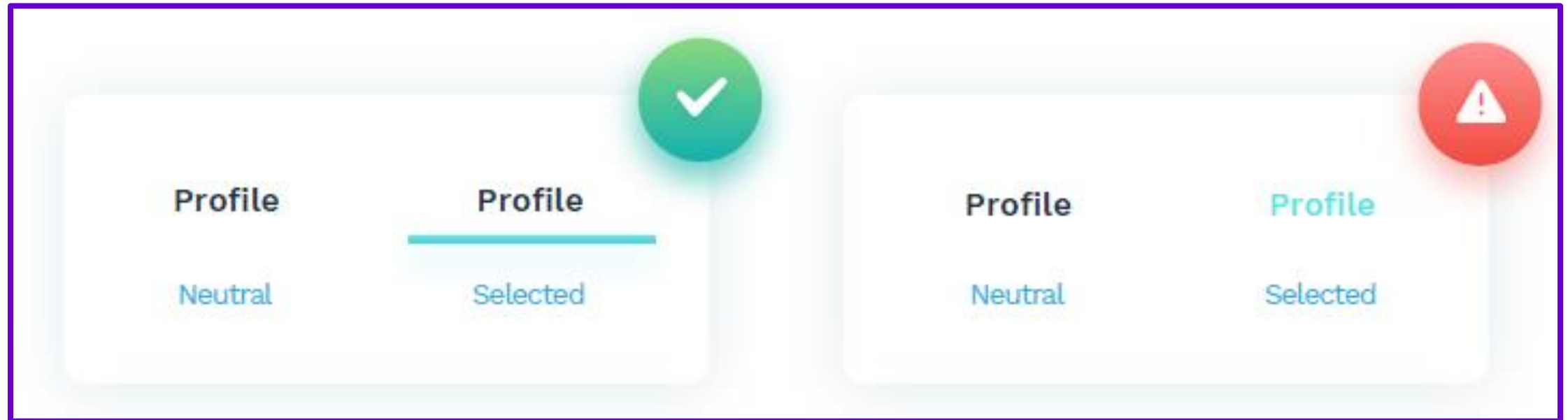
Profile



Selected state

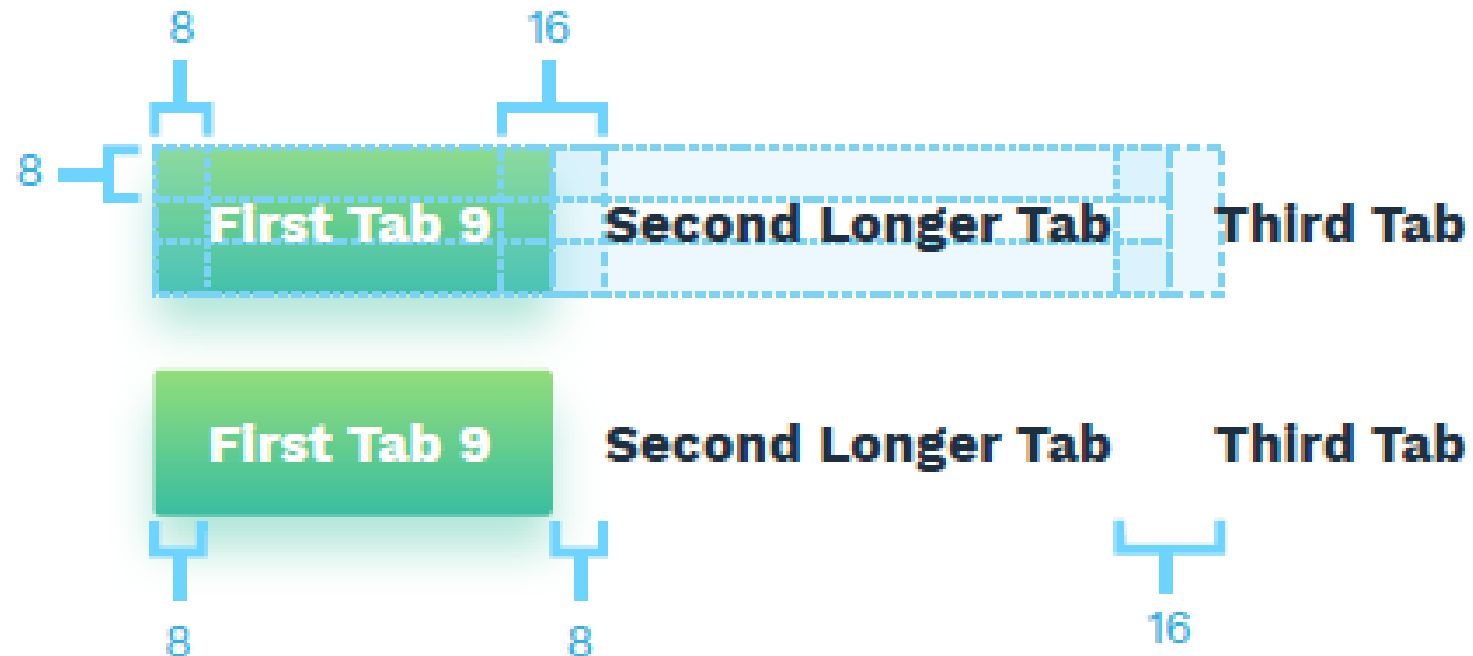
# TEXT BASED TABS

While designing all the possible states, keep in mind to differentiate the **active**, **neutral**, and **selected** states by **more than just a different text color**.



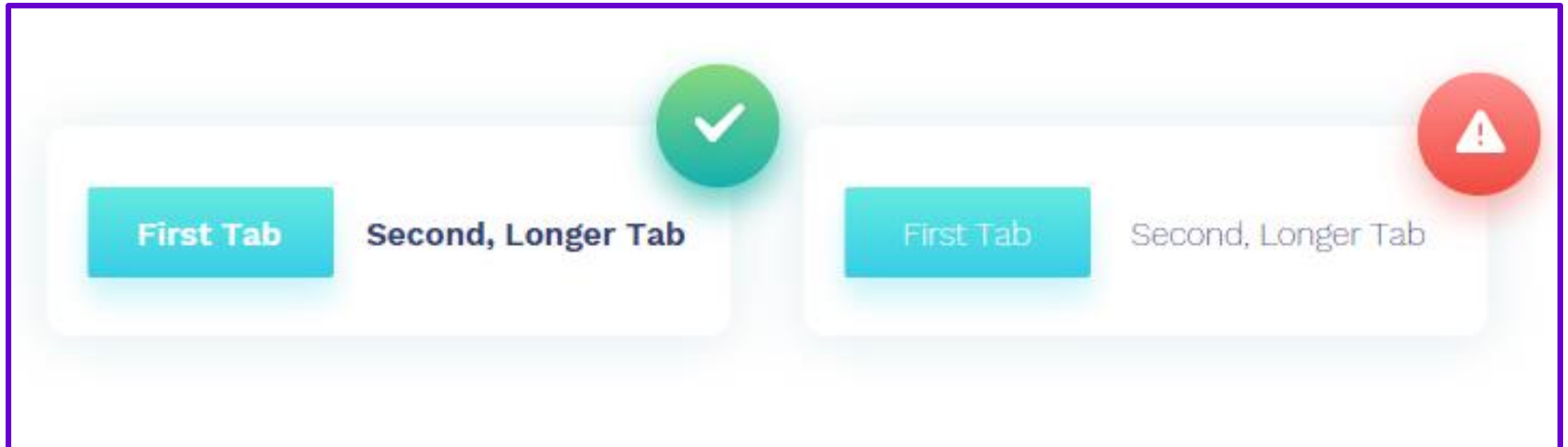
# TEXT BASED TABS ON LARGER SCREENS

Most desktop-based tab bars can use a soft-grid to align tabs of various lengths.



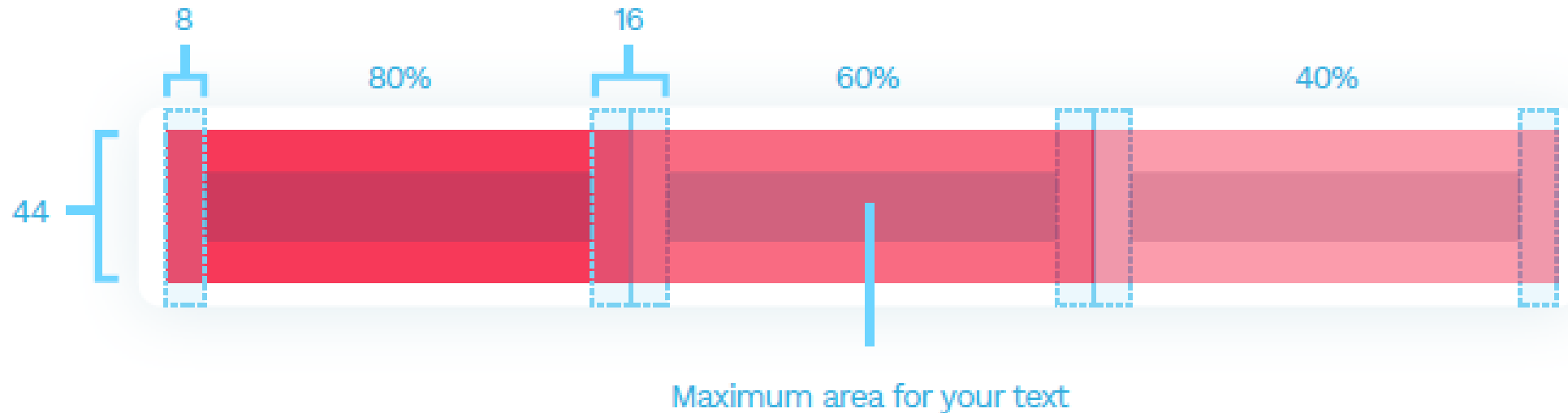
# TEXT BASED TABS & Fonts

Avoid using very thin (light, ultra-light, or thin) fonts in your text tabs.



# TEXT BASED TABS ON SMALL SCREENS

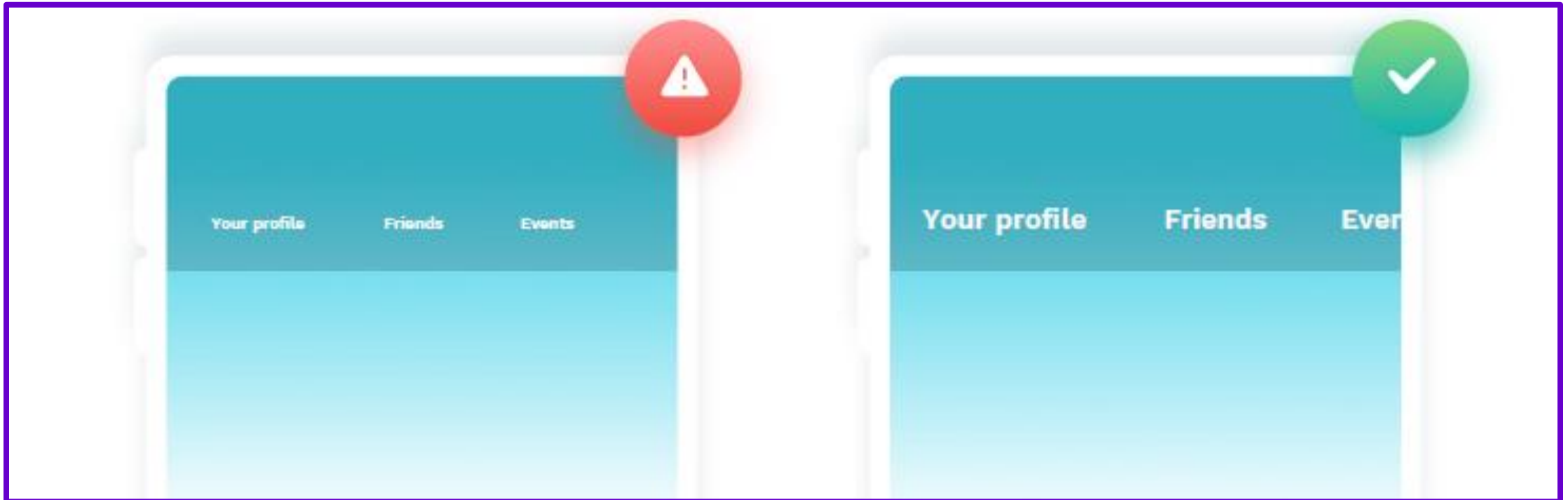
While designing for mobile, you can use a soft grid, or if you already know your tabs, you can divide the screen proportionally.





# TEXT BASED TABS ON SMALL SCREENS

If you need more than three tabs, make sure that the last one is slightly cut-off by the edge of the screen.



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# SIDEBARS

You can use side navigation (sidebar) for longer tab lists. This pattern comes in handy if you have a lot of tabs, often with a nested structure.

## Hotel services

Allowed pets

Dogs

Small dogs

Large dogs

Cats

Extra services



## Hotel services

Allowed pets

Dogs

Small dogs

Large dogs

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Extra services



## Hotel services

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# HIDDEN NAVIGATION - FLOATING ACTION

A floating action menu is a way to save space and provide quick actions available from anywhere in an app.



Menu before activation



Active, expanded menu

# HIDDEN NAVIGATION - FLOATING ACTION

When expanding, remember to rotate the plus sign 45 degrees to turn it into an X.



A plus sign rotated 45-degrees suggest you can close the menu the same way you opened it.



Experiment with the right floating action menu layout.

# HIDDEN NAVIGATION - HAMBURGER MENU

The hamburger menu is a hidden navigation drawer that expands when the user pushes a three-line icon.



# HIDDEN NAVIGATION - HAMBURGER MENU

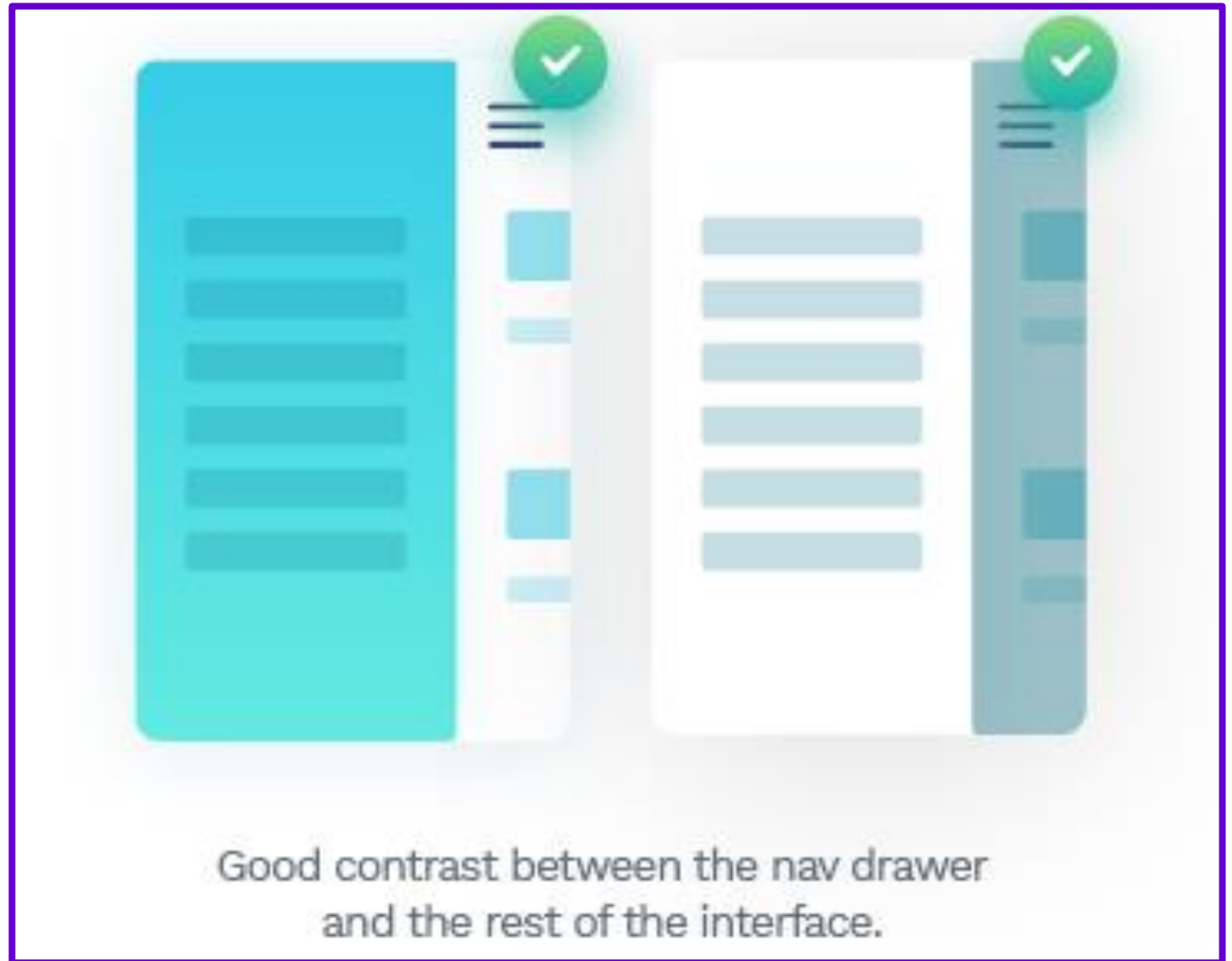
If your drawer has any tabs that receive notifications, you can add a notification bubble on the hamburger menu itself.





## HAMBURGER MENU - THE DRAWER

A hamburger menu drawer is a vertical list of menu items - often with icons next to them.



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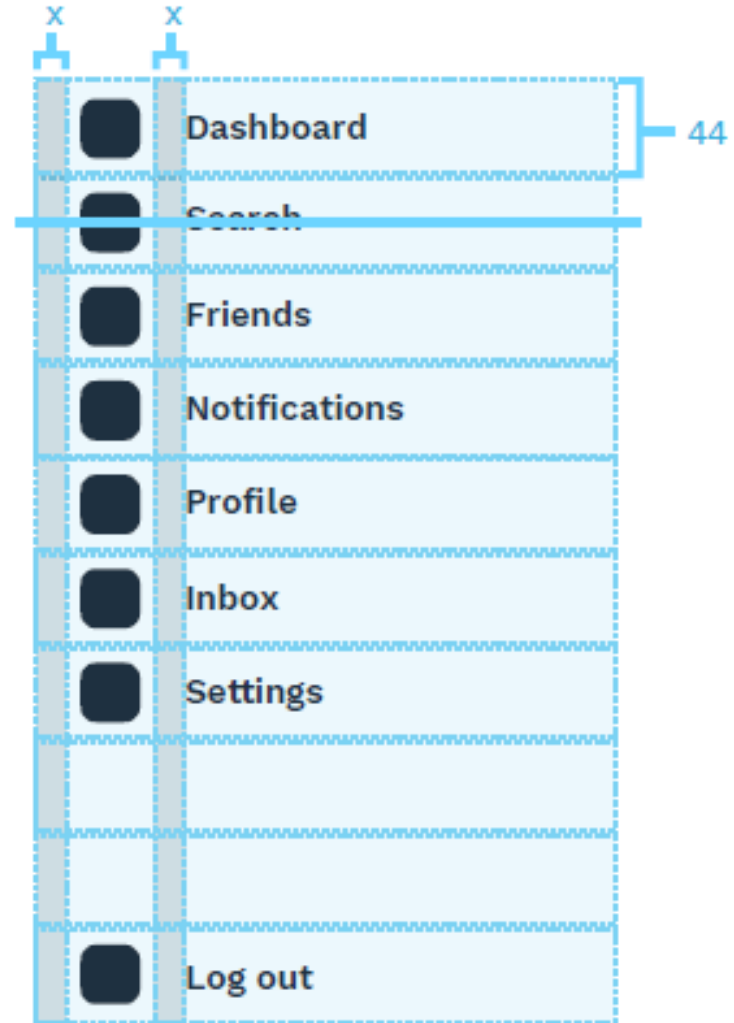
# HAMBURGER MENU - THE DRAWER

The drawer can either open over the content or push the content to the side.



## HAMBURGER MENU - LINK LAYOUT

One of the most common problems of navigation drawers is poor alignment and margins of icons and labels.



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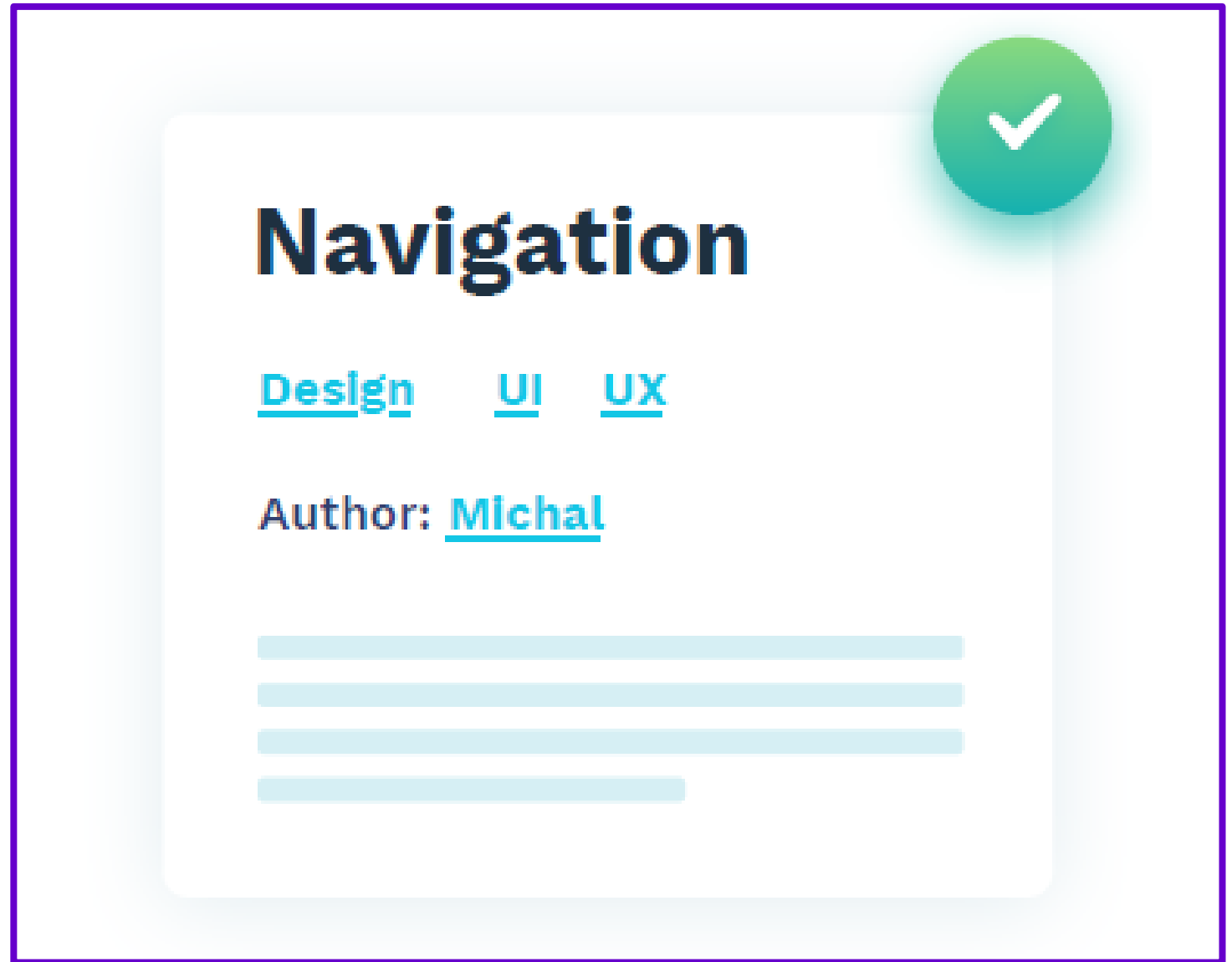
Hidden Navigation

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Contextual Navigation

## CONTEXTUAL NAVIGATION

Contextual  
navigation means  
all the links inside  
of your content or  
metadata.



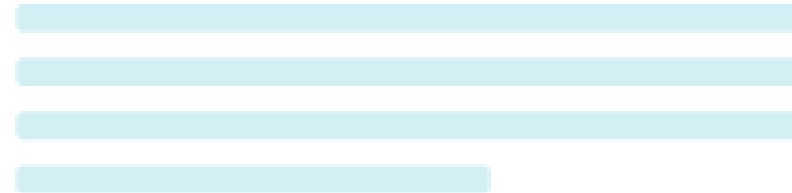
## CONTEXTUAL NAVIGATION

Remember to  
highlight the links  
with a background,  
underline, color, or  
font thickness.

### Navigation

Design, UI, UX

Author: Michal



# CONTEXTUAL NAVIGATION - GOOD IDEAS

Another way of  
designing  
contextual links is  
simply creating  
them as buttons.

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[UI](#)

[UX](#)

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[Design](#)

[UI](#)

[UX](#)

Author: [Michal](#)



# CONTEXTUAL NAVIGATION - GOOD IDEAS

Give enough whitespace to all of the page content, so that the structure and hierarchy give room for smooth navigating.



# Course References

- ***Designing User Interfaces***, Michal Malewicz & Diana Malewice, 2020
- ***UI Design Styles: Trends and Design Patterns***, Michal Malewicz & Diana Malewice, 2020
- ***What UX Is Really About :Introducing a Mindset for Great Experiences***, Celia Hodent, CRC Press, 2022
- ***Lean UX: Designing Great Products with Agile Teams 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition***, Jeff Gothelf & Josh Seiden, O'Reilly, 2021
- ***Laws of UX: Using Psychology to Design Better Products & Services***, Jon Yablonski, O'Reilly, 2020
- ***Designing and Prototyping Interfaces with Figma***, Fabio Staiano, Packet Publishing, 2022

# Accessing Course Resource



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