

# Starting Out Your UIUX Career

## Module 8 Tables and Graphs

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Tables and Data

**2**

Building a Data Table

**3**

Table Readability

**4**

Table Design Best Practices

**5**

Graphs

## Showing Data

A table is a grid of columns and rows, allowing for **easy scanning, comparing, and analyzing large data sets.**

Data is the most important part of tables, so **avoid unnecessary decoration.**

Coffee	Size	Price
Espresso	S	6,00
Doppio	S+	8,00
Cappuccino	M	10,00
Latte	L	12,00
Flat white	L	12,00

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# BUILDING A DATA TABLE

A typical table has two main elements: a **label** (for either the rows, columns, or both) and the **actual data** (text, numbers, or images).

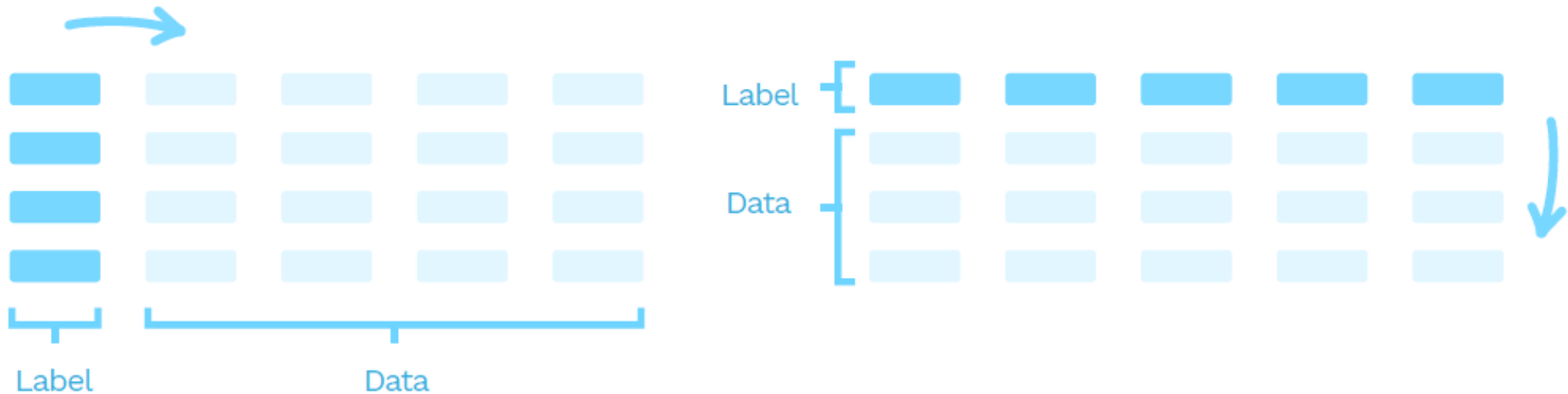


The diagram illustrates a data table with two main components: a label and actual data. The label is represented by a blue bracket on the left, and the data is represented by a light blue bracket on the right. The table itself is a rounded rectangle with a light blue header and two data rows. The header row is labeled 'Coffee', 'Size', and 'Price'. The first data row is labeled 'Espresso', 'S', and '6,00'. The second data row is labeled 'Doppio', 'S+', and '8,00'.

Coffee	Size	Price
Espresso	S	6,00
Doppio	S+	8,00

# BUILDING A DATA TABLE

We can present the data in columns or rows, depending on the type and amount of information.



# BUILDING A DATA TABLE

If our column has a lot of rows or columns, and scrolling is unavoidable, it's good to have the label part (column or row) stay on the top layer, with the content scrolling under them.



# SORTING

**When sorting is possible, it's essential always to make that fact clear and visible. The best choice is a small arrow showing the sorting direction (either up or down).**

Coffee	Price ^
Espresso	6,00
Doppio	8,00

Coffee	Price v
Doppio	8,00
Espresso	6,00



## SORTING

When a column is defining the sorting of the entire table, it's good to highlight it with either a bold label or a background color to make it stand out.

Coffee	Size	Price ^
Espresso	S	6,00
Doppio	S+	8,00
Cappuccino	M	10,00
Latte	L	12,00
Flat white	L	12,00

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# READABILITY

Keep only the essentials, remove the rest, make sure everything is aligned and have enough space to be easy to scan.



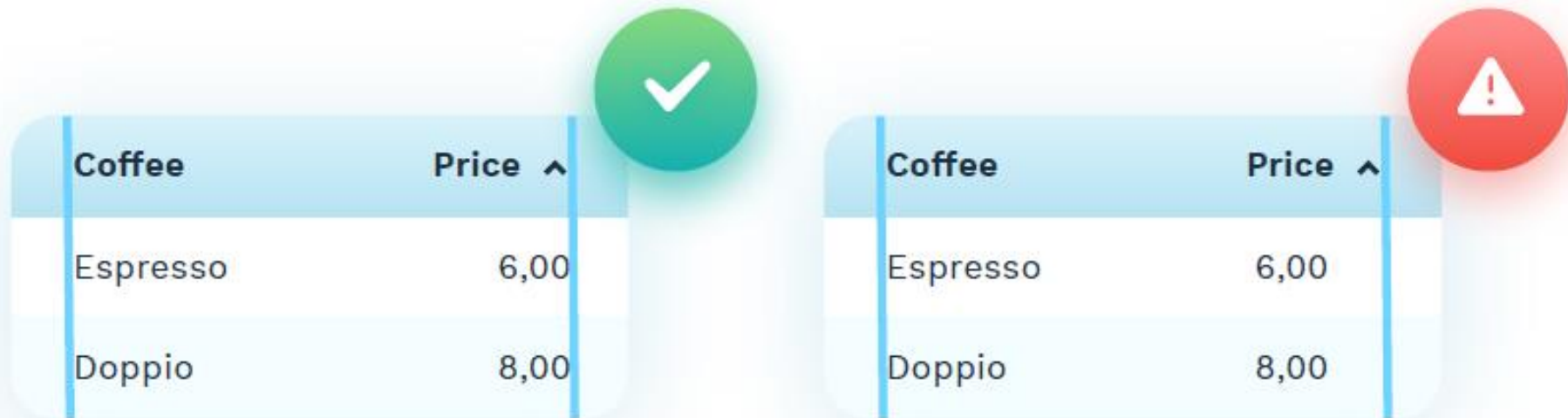
Coffee	Size	Price
Espresso	S	6,00
Doppio	S+	8,00
Cappuccino	M	10,00
Latte	L	12,00



Coffee	Size	Price
Espresso	S	6,00
Doppio	S+	8,00
Cappucino	M	10,00
Latte	L	12,00

# ALIGNMENT

Text data should be left-aligned (to their labels as well) as **we use the F-pattern to scan** them. Numbers, on the other hand, should nearly always be right-aligned.



The image compares two table layouts. The left table, marked with a green checkmark, shows correct alignment: text is left-aligned and numbers are right-aligned. The right table, marked with a red warning icon, shows incorrect alignment: both text and numbers are left-aligned, which is less readable.

Coffee	Price ^
Espresso	6,00
Doppio	8,00

Coffee	Price ^
Espresso	6,00
Doppio	8,00

# WHITESPACE

Try to treat a table cell like a button.  
That means it should have enough space on all sides of the data.

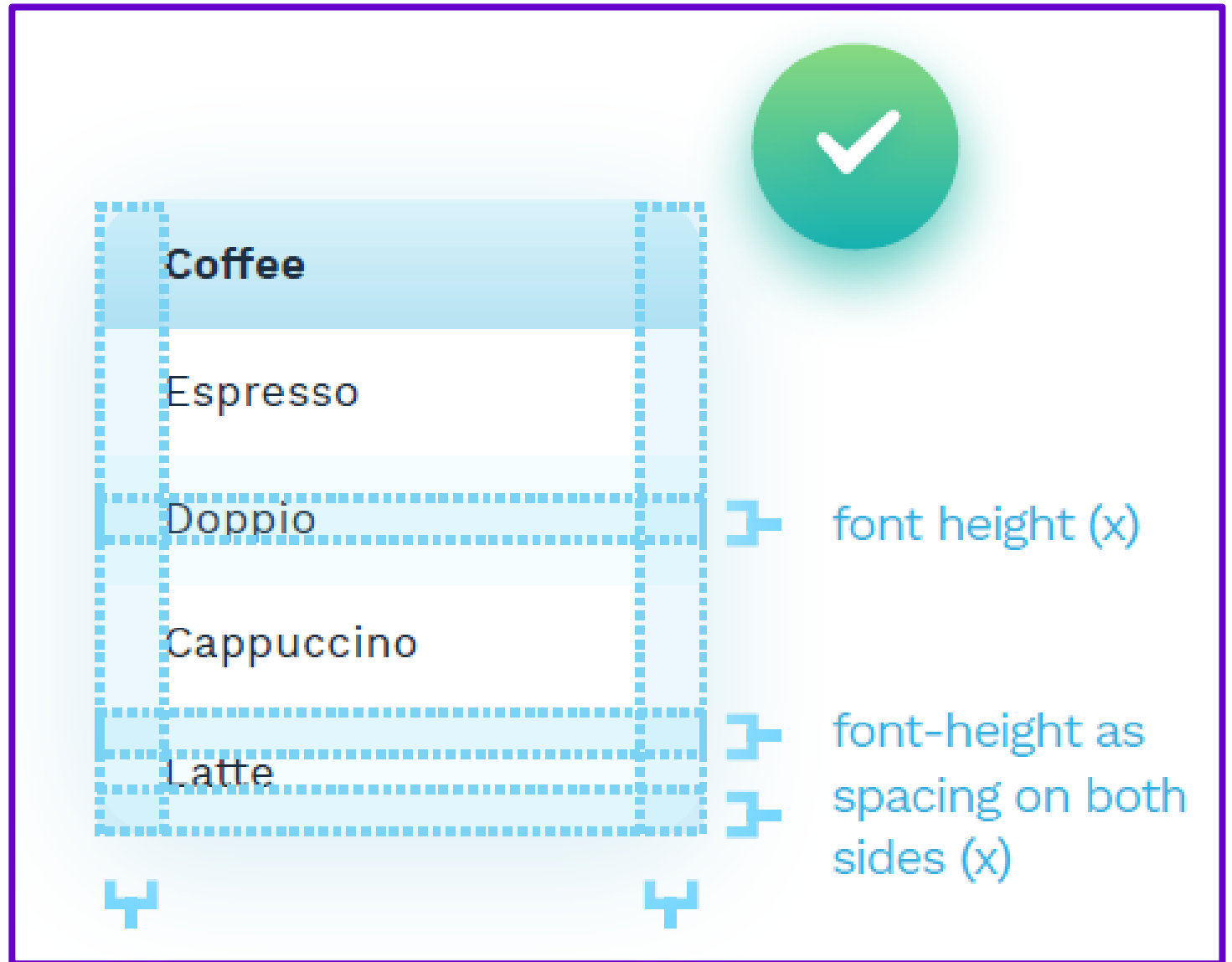


Coffee
Espresso
Doppio
Cappucino
Latte

# WHITESPACE



Try to treat a table cell like a button.

That means it should have enough space on all sides of the data.





# WHITESPACE



Despite popular opinions, **people are not afraid to scroll.** Creating a dense, data-heavy table just to fit more rows on one screen is usually not the best idea.

  
  
1,500,000.00

Too small whitespace (high density)

  
  
1,500,000.00

Good whitespace

  
  
1,500,000.00

Too large whitespace

# SEPARATORS

## Coffee

Espresso

Doppio

Cappuccino

Latte

Whitespace

## Coffee

Espresso

Doppio

Cappuccino

Latte

Separator (line)

## Coffee

Espresso

Doppio

Cappuccino

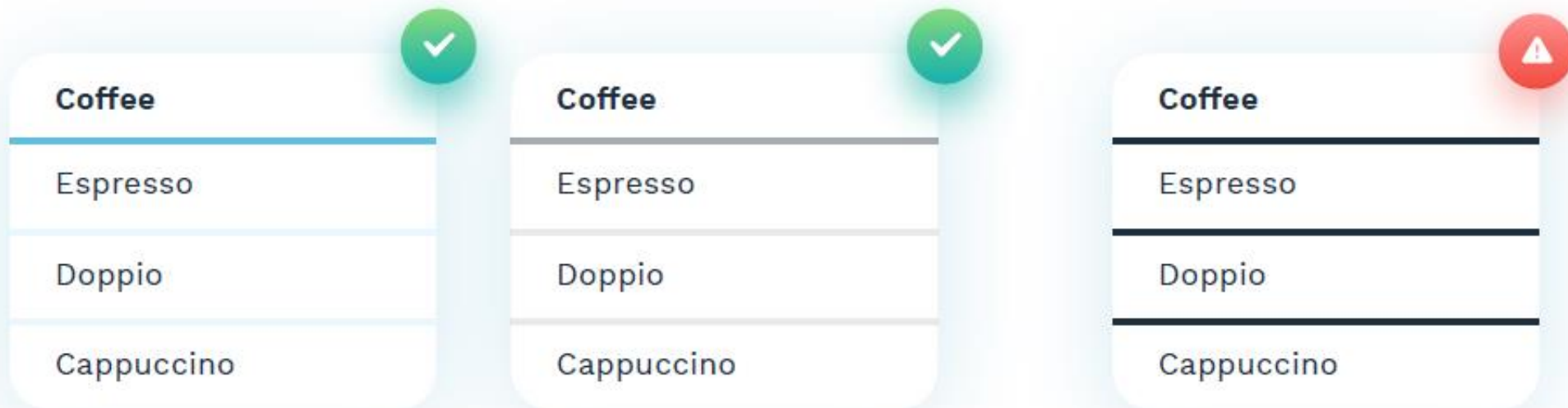
Latte

Background



# SEPARATORS

When doing line separation, avoid thick, high-contrast edges. Use either light grays or a lighter hue of your primary color.



# TABLE WIDTH

When our columns are too far apart, it dramatically decreases readability.



Coffee	Price ^
Espresso	6,00
Doppio	8,00

Coffee	Price ^
Espresso	6,00
Doppio	8,00

# TABLE WIDTH

Designing the table width, however, we have to plan for the longest possible data entry in a row.



Coffee	Price ^
Espresso	6,00
Large latte with caramel syrup	16,00
Cappuccino	10,00

Coffee	Price ^
Espresso	6,00
Large latte with caramel syrup	16,00
Cappuccino	10,00



Coffee	Price ^
Espresso	6,00
Large latte with caramel syrup	16,00
Cappuccino	10,00

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# PHOTOS IN TABLE CELLS

Photos should be centered vertically against all the other cells in the row, thumbnail size with enough whitespaces



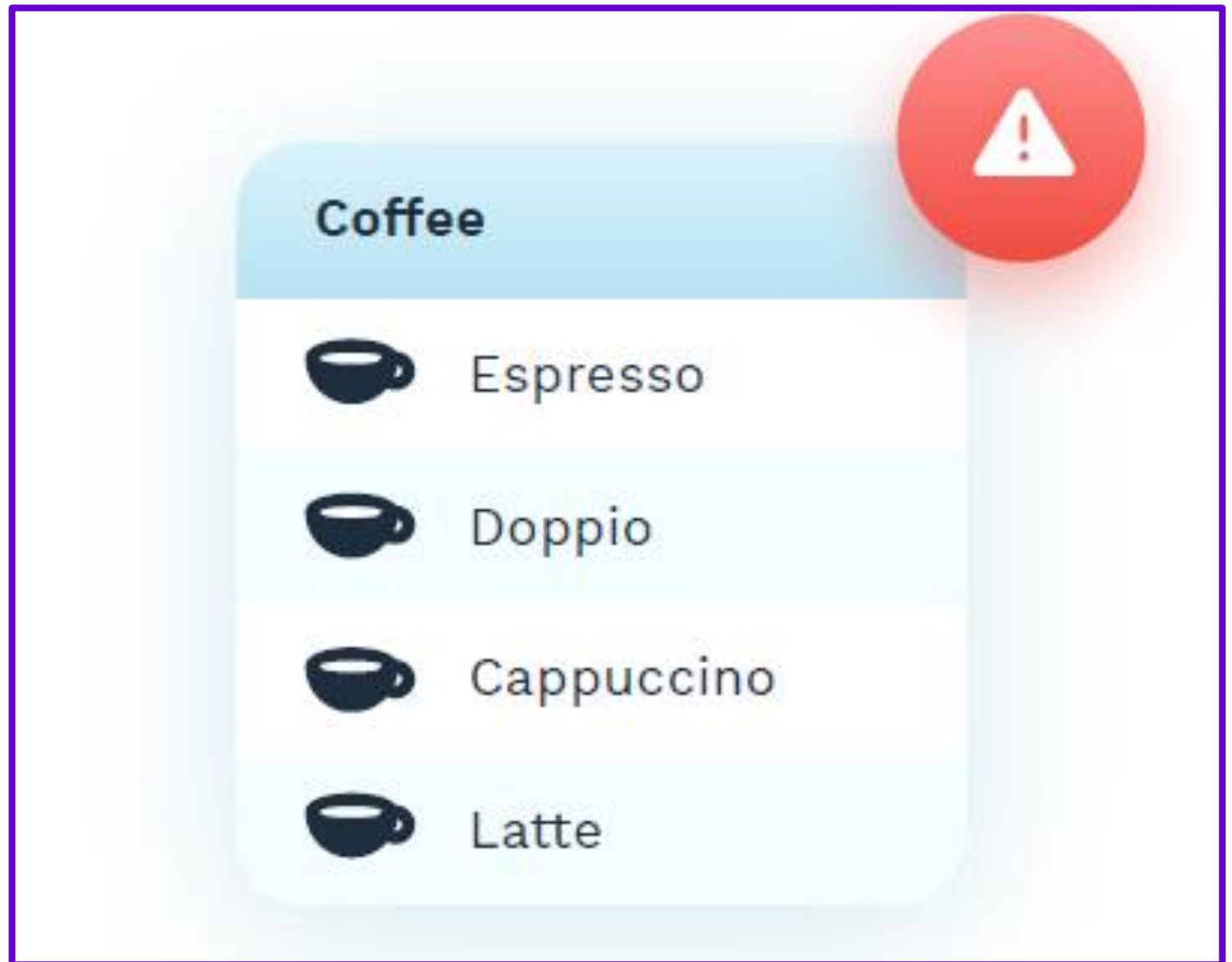
Students		Grade
	Anna Smith	A
	Jenny Wilkes	B



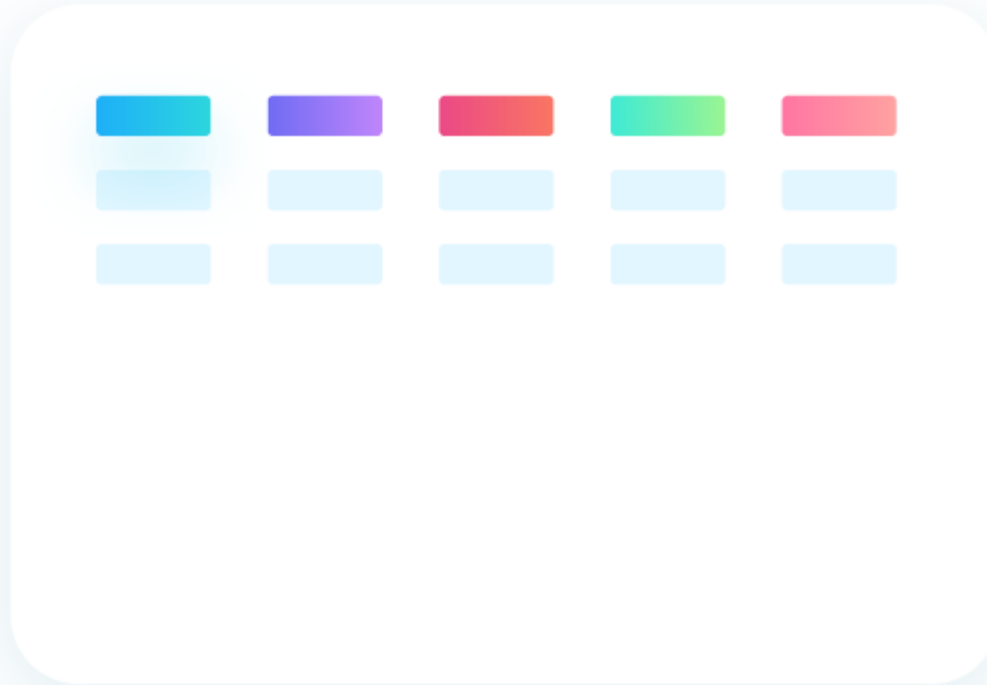
Students		Grade
	Anna Smith	A
	Jenny Wilkes	B

## ICONS IN TABLE CELLS

Avoid using icons in data tables (especially decorative ones).



# TABLES ON SMALL (MOBILE) SCREENS



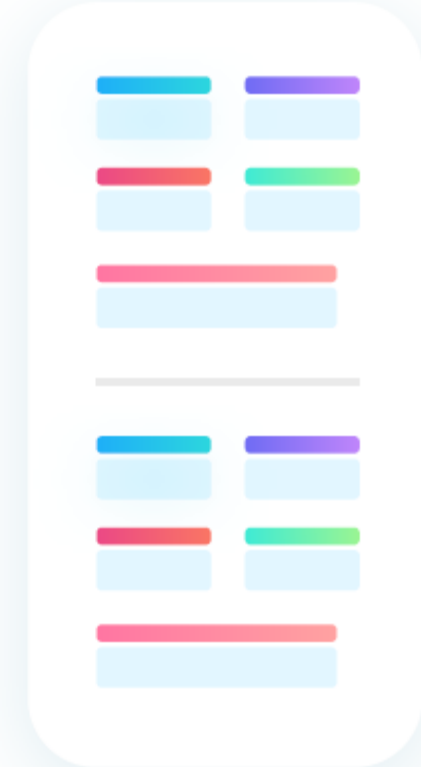
A diagram of a wide table with two rows. The first row contains five colored rectangular cells: cyan, purple, red, green, and pink. The second row contains five light blue rectangular cells. The table is contained within a white rounded rectangle with a light blue shadow.


A wide table with two rows



Cell

Cell



A diagram of the same table adjusted to a smaller screen. The table is now two columns wide. The first column contains the cyan, red, and pink cells from the first row, followed by a horizontal separator line. The second column contains the purple, green, and light blue cells from the first row, followed by a horizontal separator line. The second row of the table is also adjusted to fit the two columns. The table is contained within a white rounded rectangle with a light blue shadow.


The same table adjusted to a smaller screen.

# COLORS

Avoid using too many colors in your tables. Shades of grey and soft pastels should be enough, with an optional darker shade used to highlight the active row



Coffee	Size	Price
Espresso	S	6,00
Doppio	S+	8,00
Cappuccino	M	10,00
Latte	L	12,00
Flat white	L	12,00



Coffee	Size	Price
Espresso	S	6,00
Doppio	S+	8,00
Cappuccino	M	10,00
Latte	L	12,00
Flat white	L	12,00



## COLORS

Avoid using too many colors will help you avoid visual overload and focus on data clarity.



Coffee	Size	Price
Espresso	S	6,00
Doppio	S+	8,00
Cappuccino	M	10,00
Latte	L	12,00
Flat white	L	12,00

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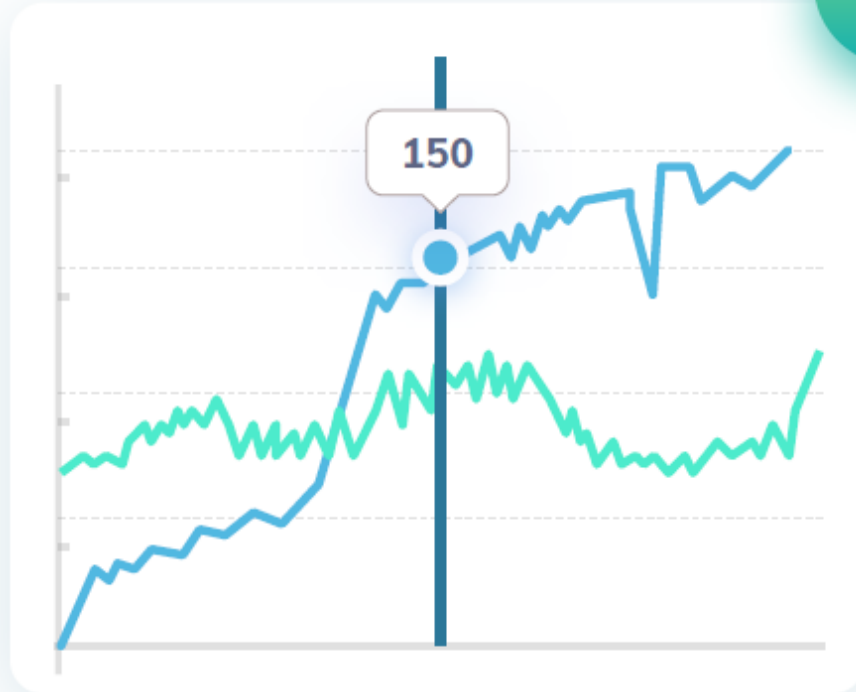
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# LINE GRAPH



Clear tooltip with enough whitespace, thick, contrasting graph lines against much subtler informative lines.



Lines are too thin, which makes everything blend together. Tooltip is hard to read due to poor contrast and whitespace.

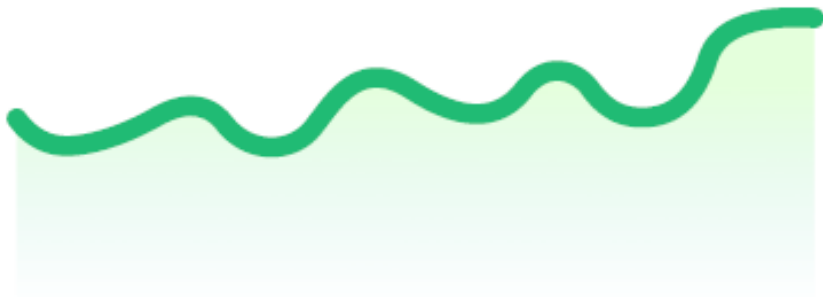
# FILLED GRAPHS

Unless our graph is interactive (clicking or hovering will visibly show the selected part), consider using an additional pattern over the color just to be safe.



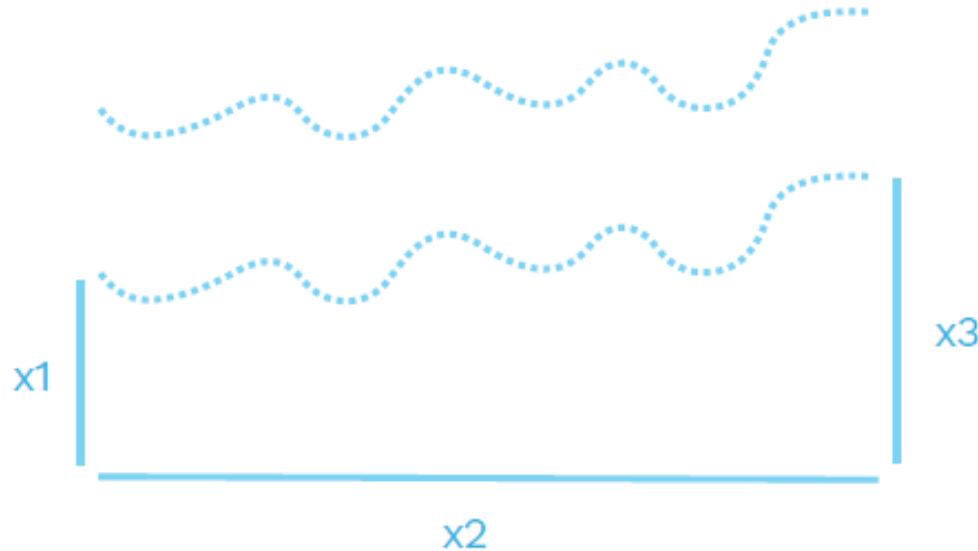
# "UNREAL" GRAPHS

Many portfolio shots make their line charts super-smooth for a higher visual impact and a more beautiful result



# How to Design "UNREAL" GRAPHS

First, create a curve with a couple of up and down waves. Then duplicate it and add the three closing sides, making it a full shape. (x1,x2,x3)



# 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



**[linkedin.com/in/Samanipour](https://www.linkedin.com/in/Samanipour)**



**[t.me/SamaniGroup](https://t.me/SamaniGroup)**



**[github.com/Samanipour](https://github.com/Samanipour)**