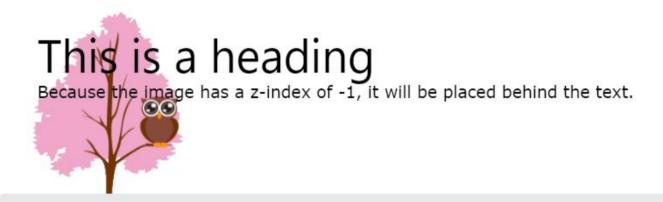
# The z-index Property

When elements are positioned, they can overlap other elements.

The z-index property specifies the stack order of an element (which element should be placed in front of, or behind, the others).

An element can have a positive or negative stack order:



## Example

```
img {
    position: absolute;
    left: 0px;
    top: 0px;
    z-index: -1;
}
```

**Note:** z-index only works on positioned elements (position: absolute, position: relative, position: fixed, or position: sticky) and flex items (elements that are direct children of display: flex elements).

## Example

Here we see that an element with greater stack order is always above an element with a lower stack order:

```
<html>
<head>
<style>
.container {
 position: relative;
}
.black-box {
 position: relative;
 z-index: 1;
 border: 2px solid black;
 height: 100px;
 margin: 30px;
.gray-box {
 position: absolute;
 z-index: 3;
 background: lightgray;
 height: 60px;
 width: 70%;
 left: 50px;
 top: 50px;
```

```
.green-box {
  position: absolute;
  z-index: 2;
  background: lightgreen;
  width: 35%;
  left: 270px;
  top: -15px;
  height: 100px;
</style>
</head>
<body>
<div class="container">
  <div class="black-box">Black box</div>
  <div class="gray-box">Gray box</div>
  <div class="green-box">Green box</div>
</div>
</body>
</html>
```

#### Without z-index

If two positioned elements overlap each other without a z-index specified, the element defined last in the HTML code will be shown on top.

### Example

Same example as above, but here with no z-index specified:

```
<html>
<head>
<style>
.container {
 position: relative;
.black-box {
 position: relative;
 border: 2px solid black;
 height: 100px;
 margin: 30px;
```

```
.gray-box {
  position: absolute;
  background: lightgray;
  height: 60px;
 width: 70%;
  left: 50px;
 top: 50px;
}
.green-box {
  position: absolute;
  background: lightgreen;
 width: 35%;
  left: 270px;
 top: -15px;
  height: 100px;
</style>
</head>
<body>
<div class="container">
  <div class="black-box">Black box</div>
  <div class="gray-box">Gray box</div>
  <div class="green-box">Green box</div>
</div>
</body>
</html>
```