2023

CSS units are confusing 😖

px

em

ch

rem %

vw

vh

CSS Tips

Today we're going to briefly learn about CSS units, since they're so freaking confusing!

→

px (absolute)

Avoid using 'px' for font-sizes. Use mostly for small details like border and shadow.

- fixed in size
- not responsive
- overrides user's browser preferences

% (relative)

I recommend using percentages for layouts and width/height. For example, laying out links on navbar, placing images inside a div, etc.

• size is defined as percentage of another value (mostly parent element)

• sometimes size is defined as percentage of the element itself

```css
.child {
font-size: 80px;
line-height: 50%; //40px
}
```

swipe ⟶

em (relative)

You can use 'em for font-size and margin/padding. Use 'em when you want to adjust margin/padding based on that element's font-size (if font-size is big, you maybe want bigger spacing).

- changes behavior based on property.

- em = parent font-size

- if parent doesn't have a size, defaults to 16px (body)

```
.parent-div {
    font-size: 10px;
}
```

```
.list-item {
    font-size: 2em;
}
```

rem (relative)

You can also use 'rem for font-size and margin/padding. "remis easier to work with than 'em because it's more consistent.

- Relative to root HTML, no matter what (default is 16px)

- you can change the root HTML size. For example, if you change it to 20px, 1 rem will always be 20px.

```
html {
    font-size: 10px;
}
```

```
p {
    font-size: 1.5rem;
}
```

Here, we've set the HTML default size to 10px. So, 1.5rem is 15px. 2rem will be 20px instead of default 32px.

vw/vh (relative)

ww/vh are relative to the width/height of the browser window. 100vw means full width of the screen. Use vw/vh for bigger layouts, like background.

- useful for responsive websites because everything scales

Its hard to remember right Sooo...

HIT THAT SAVE 🔖

ch

'ch' is relative to the width of the number 0 of the current font. 'ch is used to size the width of a paragraph. In general, you want a 45-70 character wide column for readability.

- You would use it like this:

max-width: 40ch;
This sets the width of the column to a maximum of 40 characters per line.

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