

# André Restivo



[home](#) > [exercises](#) > [css](#)

## ■ CSS Exercises

### 1. Online Newspaper Design

- Unzip the following file into some folder: [news.zip](#)
- You should have now 4 files: **index.html** (the main page of an online newspaper), **item.html** (a page representing a single article with comments), **register.html** and **login.html** (pages for users to register and login).
- Analyze the structure of these files.
- As you might have noticed, all pages reference 5 css files: **style.css** (styling the main components), **layout.css** (positioning the main components), **responsive.css** (making the page responsive), **comments.css** (design for the comments section) and **register.css** (design for the login and register forms).
- **Without changing** the HTML files, try recreating a design by following these **five** steps:

#### 1.1 Main Style

We will start by designing the main components of the main page without worrying about the positioning of any elements (**style.css**). The final result should be [this](#).

##### Take notice that:

- The green background is **not** part of the design. The site should occupy the whole width of the browser.
- It's not noticeable on the screenshot, but section links should change their background color to #2A2F33 and their text color to white when the mouse is over them.

##### Some helper values:

- Main colors used: #2A2F33, #046DD5, and #F4655F.
- Section colors: #E1493E, #8ABA56, #5B4282, #FF8932, #19B6E9 and #E84C8B.
- Fonts used: [Lora](#) and [Poppins](#).
- Most paddings and margins are *1em*.

**Info:** Lora and Poppins are not web-safe fonts; most people won't have them installed in their browsers. But we can still use them by adding this line into our CSS file thanks to [Google Fonts](#)

```
@import url('https://fonts.googleapis.com/css?family=Lora:400,700|Poppins:400,700');
```

**Info:** You may have noticed that the *nav* section contains an *input* and a *label*. These are just to be used in *exercise 1.3*. You can start by hiding them using CSS for now (with 'display: none').

### What did I learn:

- How to use **CSS selectors** to select specific parts of an HTML file for styling.
- How to apply **basic styling** to HTML elements.
- How to **import fonts** so that we can use more than the web-safe fonts.
- How to use **pseudo-classes** to select elements based on an element state.
- How to **hide** elements using CSS.

## 1.2 Positioning

We will position the elements in their proper places (**layout.css**). The final result should be [this](#).

### Some helper values:

- The background color is `#EDEFF0`.
- The width of the page is `60em`.
- The sidebar occupies 1/5 of the total width.

**Tip:** Use a *flexbox* for the menu and a *grid* to position the elements on the page.

### What did I learn:

- How to use **CSS grids** to position elements in a webpage.
- How to use **CSS flexboxes** to position elements in a container.

## 1.3 Responsive Design

Now we make the design responsive by establishing two breaking points (**responsive.css**):

- When the width of the window reaches **60em**, the sidebar should disappear and the page should occupy the full width (*100%*) of the window. The final result should be [this](#).
- When the width of the window reaches **30em**, the menu should collapse into a pull-down menu, the subtitle should not be shown and each news item title should be moved to above the item image. The final result should be [this](#).

### Some helper values:

- Characters for the hamburger menu: `\2630` (`☰`) and `\2715` (`✕`).

**Tip:** Start by making the menu without any animations (using display to hide and show the menu items). After that, try using *transitions* to change the height of each menu item instead.

**What did I learn:**

- How to use **media queries** to specify CSS rules for specific screen widths.
- How to use a **hidden checkbox** to save state in CSS.
- How to **add content** to elements using the after pseudo-element.
- How to **transitions** to create smooth animations in CSS.

## 1.4 Comments Design

Add CSS rules (**comments.css**) to create the design for the comment section that can be seen on the **item.html** page. The final result should be [this](#).

**Some helper values:**

- Quote character for each comment: `\201C(“)`.

**Tip:** Use a *grid* for the comment *form* design.

**What did I learn:**

- How to use **grids** to design forms.

## 1.5 Register Design

Add CSS rules (**register.css**) to create the design for the register and login forms that can be seen in the **register.html** and **login.html** pages. The final result should be [this](#).

Make sure that the form fills the content area in smaller screens like [this](#).

**What did I learn:**

- How to use **grids** to design forms.
- How to use generic selectors to not repeat myself.

## 2. No Flexbox/Grid Design

**Without** using the *flexbox* and *grid* CSS layouts, try to recreate some designs.

- Unzip the following file into some folder: [blocks.zip](#).
- Inside the *zip* you will find an *index.html* file and a *base.css* file. These have the structure of the website and some base design. You should not change these files.
- Try to recreate each one of the following designs, without using *flexbox* or *grid*, inside the *style.css* file:
  - [Style 1](#)
  - [Style 2](#)
  - [Style 3](#)

- **Style 4**

**Extra:** Now try the same exercises, this time **using** flexbox and grid layouts.

### What did I learn:

- How to position, float and clear to create complex CSS designs.
- How much easier it is to use grid and flexbox.

## 3. Cascading

Consider the following HTML code:

```
<section id="foo">
  <ul class="bar">
    <li class="first"><a href="#">A</a></li>
    <li class="second"><a href="#">B</a></li>
    <li><a href="#">C</a></li>
    <li><a href="#">D</a></li>
  </ul>
</section>
```

And the following CSS rules:

```
section ul li      { color : green }    /*R1*/
.bar .second       { color : red }      /*R2*/
li a               { color : cyan }     /*R3*/
section li:first-child ~ li { color : yellow } /*R4*/
#foo .bar li :first-child { color : inherit } /*R5*/
.bar li           { color : magenta }  /*R6*/
```

During this exercise, **don't try this code in the browser** until the end.

### 3.1 Specificity

- [1] Without using a specificity calculator, calculate the specificity of each rule.
- [2] **In the end**, **verify** if you got it right.

### 3.2 Rules

What rules apply to each of the elements:

- [1] section with id foo:
- [2] ul with class bar:
- [3] each one of the four list items:
- [4] each one of the four links:

### 3.3 Selected Rule

What is the rule with the highest specificity for each element:

- [1] section with id foo:
- [2] ul with class bar:
- [3] each one of the four list items:
- [4] each one of the four links:

### 3.4 Color Value

What is the color value (including inherit) assigned to each element:

- [1] section with id foo:
- [2] ul with class bar:
- [3] each one of the four list items:
- [4] each one of the four links:

### 3.5 Final Color

What is the **final color value** presented in the browser:

- [1] first link:
- [2] second link:
- [3] third link:
- [4] fourth link:

## 4. Form

Consider the following HTML code that represents a register form:

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en-US">
  <head>
    <title>Form Example</title>
    <link rel="stylesheet" href="style.css">
    <link rel="stylesheet" href="responsive.css">
    <meta charset="utf-8">
    <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
  </head>
  <body>
    <form>
      <label id="username" class="required">
        Username
        <input type="text" name="username" placeholder="johndoe" required>
      </label>
      <label id="password" class="required">
        Password
        <input type="password" name="password" required>
      </label>
    </form>
  </body>
</html>
```

```
</label>
<label id="fname">
  First Name
  <input type="text" name="fname" placeholder="John">
</label>
<label id="lname">
  Last Name
  <input type="text" name="lname" placeholder="Doe">
</label>
<label id="email" class="required">
  E-mail
  <input type="text" name="email" placeholder="johndoe@mail.com" required>
</label>
<label id="address">
  Address
  <input type="text" name="address" placeholder="1st Street, 1">
</label>
<label id="country">Country
  <select>
    <option value="pt">Portugal</option>
    <option value="other">Other</option>
  </select>
</label>
<label id="city">
  City
  <input type="text" name="city" placeholder="Porto">
</label>
<label id="zipcode">
  ZIP Code
  <input type="text" name="zipcode" placeholder="4000-001">
</label>
<label id="bio">
  Bio
  <textarea name="bio" placeholder="Just a regular guy..."></textarea>
</label>
<button id="register" type="submit">Register</button>
</form>
</body>
</html>
```

## 4.1 Main Form Design

Try recreating the following design using CSS (style.css):

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Username</b>
<input type="text" value="John"/>	<input type="text" value="Doe"/>	<input type="text" value="johndoe"/>
<b>E-mail</b>		<b>Password</b>
<input type="text" value="johndoe@mail.com"/>		<input type="password"/>
<b>Address</b>		
<input type="text" value="1st Street, 1"/>		
<b>Country</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>ZIP Code</b>
<input type="text" value="Portugal"/>	<input type="text" value="Porto"/>	<input type="text" value="4100-001"/>
<b>Bio</b>		
<input type="text"/>		

Just a regular guy...

Register

- [1] Use `display: grid` on the form to simplify placing each input in the correct place.
- [2] Colors used were: `#DC2626` for required field labels, `#ECFCCB`, `#D9F99D`, and `#84CC16` for inputs, `#FECACA` and `#F87171` for inputs with invalid errors, and `#84CC16` for the button background.
- [3] Try using CSS vars to define the colors so they can be easily changed.
- [4] The font used is **Martel Sans** (normal and bold).

## 4.2 Responsive Form Design

Add some CSS rules to make the site responsive (`responsive.css`). The site should look like this in smaller screens:

**First Name**

John

**Last Name**

Doe

**Username**

johndoe

**Password**

**E-mail**

johndoe@mail.com

**Address**

1st Street, 1

**Country**

Portugal ▼

**City**

Porto

**ZIP Code**

4100-001

**Bio**

Just a regular guy...

Register

## 5. Extra

Let's continue HTML exercise **5. Extra**:

- [1] Pick a page from a website you use a lot.
- [2] Without looking at its HTML code, try writing your own version using good HTML semantics.
- [3] **Validate** the HTML code.
- [4] Using CSS, create a design for that page.
- [5] Make sure the design works in devices of different sizes.
- [6] **Validate** your CSS code.

Created using **Sitory**. Copyright 2022 André Restivo.