



CSS Flexible Box Layout Module Level 1

Flexbox is a collection of CSS properties used to align content and distribute space.

Flex Containers: the 'flex' and 'inlineflex' 'display' values

Flex Items

Absolutely-Positioned Flex Children
Flex Item Margins and Paddings
Flex Item Z-Ordering
Collapsed Items

Implied Minimum Size of Flex Items

Ordering and Orientation
Flex Flow Direction: the 'flex-direction' property

Flex Line Wrapping: the 'flex-wrap' property
Flex Direction and Wrap: the 'flex-flow'

Display Order: the 'order' property Reordering and Accessibility

Flex Lines

Flexibility

The 'flex' Shorthand

Basic Values of 'flex'

Components of Flexibility
The 'flex-grow' property

The 'flex-shrink' property

The 'flex-basis' property

Alignment

Aligning with auto margins

CSS Flexible Box Layout Module Level 1

W3C Candidate Recommendation, 26 May

This version:

http://www.w3.org/TR/2016/CR-css-flexbox-1-20160526

Latest published version:

http://www.w3.org/TR/css-flexbox-1/

Editor's Draft:

https://drafts.csswg.org/css-flexbox/

Previous Versions

http://www.w3.org/TR/2016/CR-css-flexbox-1-20160301
http://www.w3.org/TR/2015/WD-css-flexbox-1-2015051
http://www.w3.org/TR/2014/WD-css-flexbox-1-2014092
http://www.w3.org/TR/2014/WD-css-flexbox-1-2014032
http://www.w3.org/TR/2012/CR-css3-flexbox-20120918
http://www.w3.org/TR/2012/WD-css3-flexbox-20120612
http://www.w3.org/TR/2012/WD-css3-flexbox-20120322
http://www.w3.org/TR/2011/WD-css3-flexbox-20111129
http://www.w3.org/TR/2011/WD-css3-flexbox-20110322
http://www.w3.org/TR/2009/WD-css3-flexbox-20090723

Feedback:

www-style@w3.org with subject line "[css-flexbox] ...

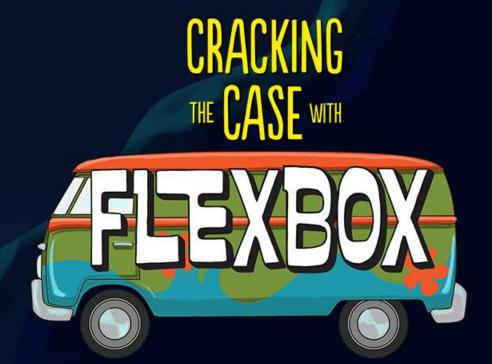
Test Suite:

http://test.csswg.org/suites/css-flexbox-1_dev/nightly-u

Editors:

Tab Atkins Jr. (Google)

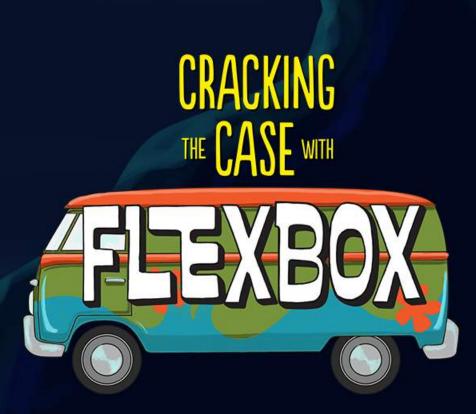
- Two new display values
- 11 new properties
- http://go.codeschool.com/flexbox-spec
- http://go.codeschool.com/caniuse-flexbox



Ul Patterns in Flexbox



- Equal heights
- Vertically centered content
- Media objects
- Sticky footers
- Column layouts



Flexbox Is a New Display Type

Flexbox adds flex containers, flex items, and flex lines in addition to new properties.

- Block layout
- Table layout
- Inline layout
- Positioning layout
- Flex layout
 - Flex containers
 - Flex items
 - Flex lines

Learn about other layouts and core HTML and CSS in these courses.





Default Behaviors of Elements

index.html HTML

```
<article class="setup">This ...
  <img height="150" height="150" ...>
  ...
</article>
```

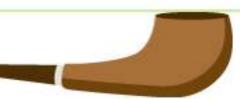
```
site.css
```

CSS

```
article {
  border: 1px solid #d1eda6; }
```

display: inline

display: block



This pipe was found outside the door of the amusement park office, soon after the ghost was seen flying by.

Syoived Huefault Behaviors

```
display: inline; }
 porder: lpx solid #dleda6;
                      article {
CZZ
                         ssp. estie
```

```
<article class="setup">This
JMTH
                             lmtd.xabni
```

```
</article>
                         <q/>...<q>
<... "021"=tdpian "021"=tdpian pmi>
```

Collapsed

seen flying by. amusement park office, soon after the ghost was This pipe was found outside the door of the

Flex Containers Control Layout of Child Items

index.html HTML <article class="setup">This </article>

This pipe was found outside the door of the amusement park office, soon after the ghost was seen flying by.

Aligned horizontally

display: flex Creates a Block-level Container

index.html HTML

```
<article class="setup">This ...
  <img height="150" height="150" ...>
  ...
</article>
```

This pipe was found outside the door of the amusement park office, soon after the ghost was seen flying by.

Uses all available width

display: inline-flex Creates an Inline Container

index.html HTML

```
<article class="setup">This ...
    <img height="150" height="150" ...>
    ...
</article>
```

-

This pipe was found outside the door of the amusement park office, soon after the ghost was seen flying by.

Container adjusts to width of the content

Flex Items Are Distributed Along Flex Lines

Flex items are direct children of a flex container and can be HTML elements or text.

No HTML element — just text

This pipe was found outside the door of the amusement park office, soon after the ghost was seen flying by.

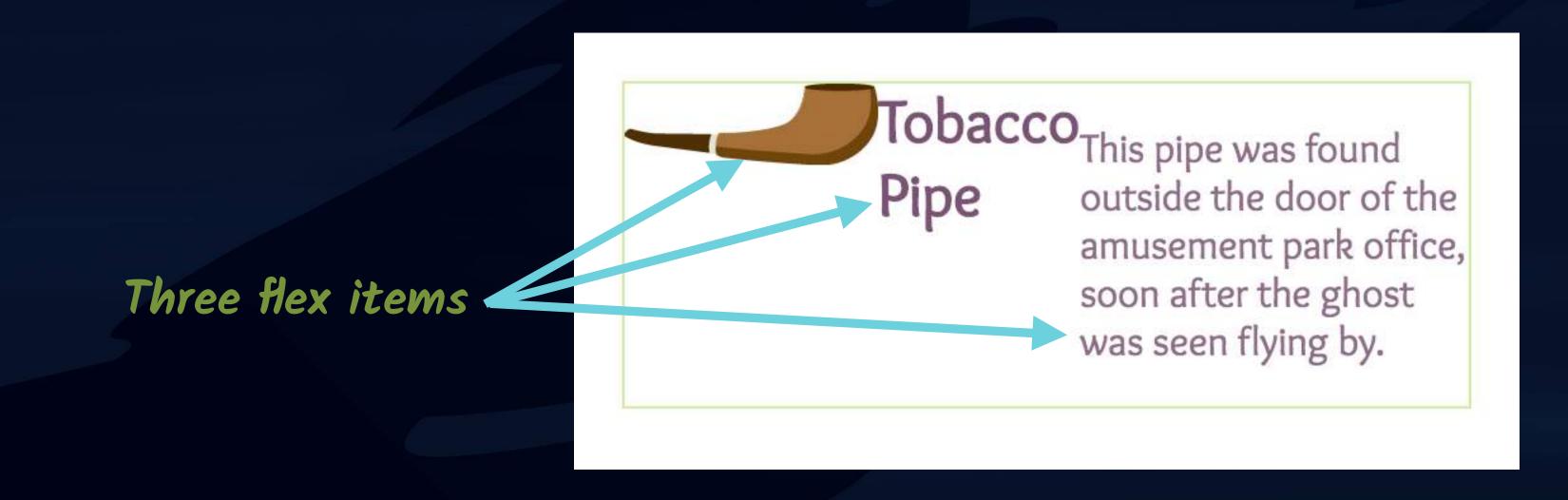
Two flex items fill the available space of a horizontal flex line

Flex Item Spacing

A spacing algorithm is used to distribute space of all flex items across a single flex line.

```
index.html HTML

<article class="setup">This ...
    <img height="150" height="150" ...>
        <h3>...</h3>
        ...
        </article>
```



Grouping Elements Into Flex Items

Grandchild elements do not become flex items.

Two flex items

Two flex items

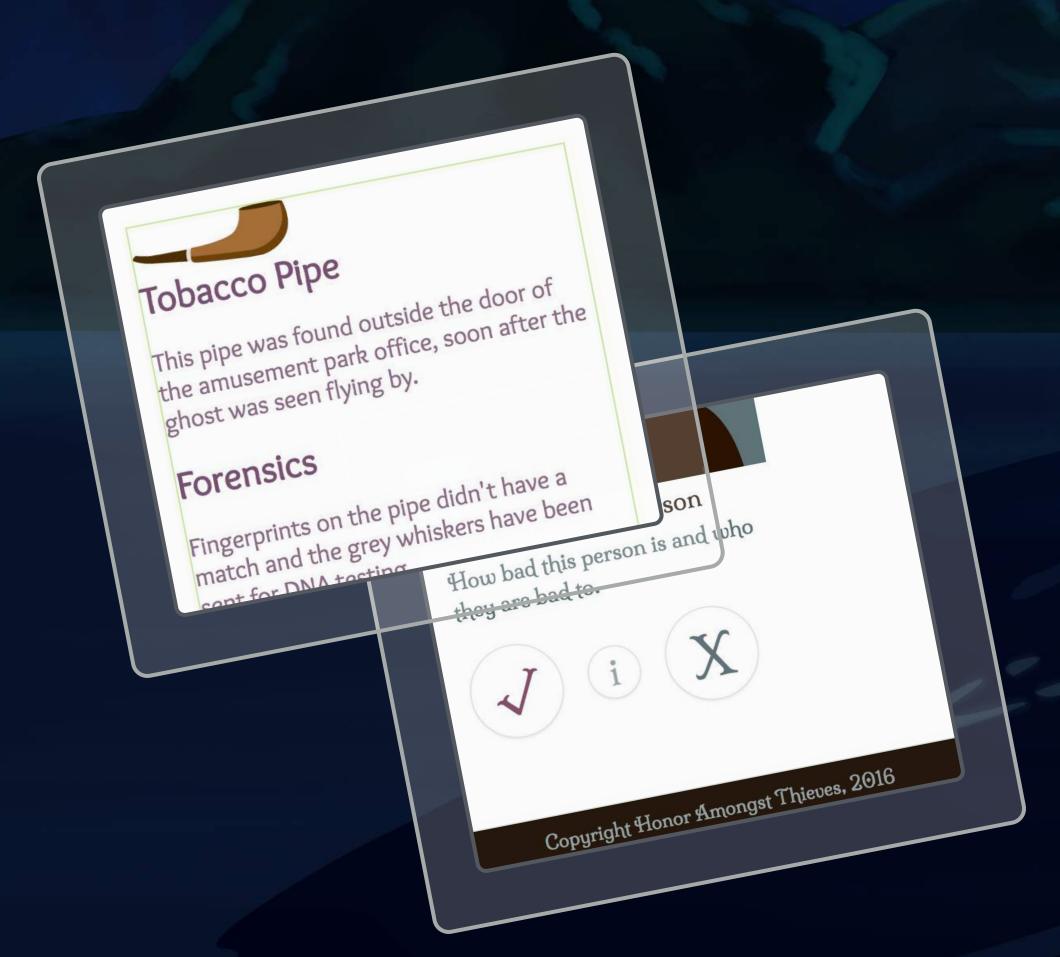


This pipe was found outside the door of the amusement park office, soon after the ghost was seen flying by.

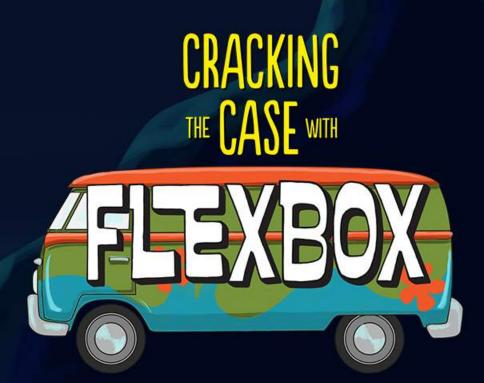




Flexbox Wrapping and Direction Examples



- Displaying flex items across multiple lines
- Changing the direction of flex lines
- Distributing space vertically



Problem: Wanting Flex Items to Stack

index.html HTML

These could go below the image

Tobacco Pipe

This pipe was found outside the door of the amusement park office, soon after the ghost was seen flying by.

Forensics

Fingerprints on the pipe didn't have a match and the grey whiskers have been sent for DNA testing.

Solution: flex-wrap

This property's default value is nowrap and it accepts: nowrap

wrap

wrap-reverse.

index.html

HTML

<article class="clue">...</article>

site.css

CSS

.clue {
 border: 1px solid #d1eda6;
 display: flex;

flex-wrap: wrap; }

Tobacco Pipe

This pipe was found outside the door of the amusement park office, soon after the ghost was seen flying by.

Forensics

Fingerprints on the pipe didn't have a match and the grey whiskers have been sent for DNA testing.

The div can't fit here, so it wraps

320px wide

Put It in Reverse?

The first of the flexbox properties that allows for rendering items in reverse.

index.html

HTML

<article class="clue">...</article>

Tobacco Pipe

This pipe was found outside the door of the amusement park office, soon after the ghost was seen flying by.

Forensics

Fingerprints on the pipe didn't have a match and the grey whiskers have been sent for DNA testing.



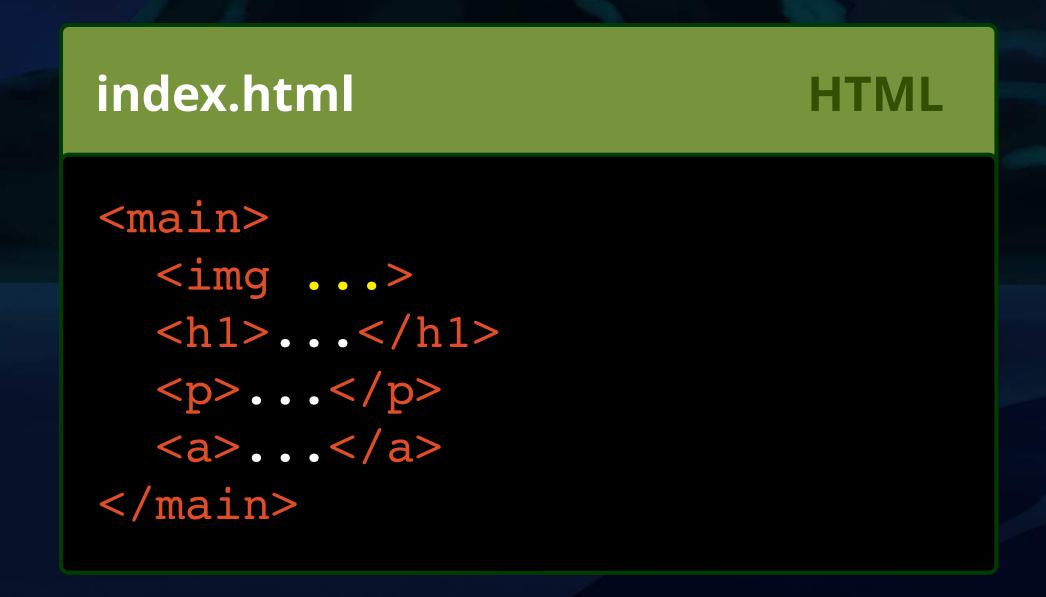
site.css

CSS

```
.clue {
  border: 1px solid #d1eda6;
  display: flex;
  flex-wrap: wrap-reverse; }
```

The flex items reverse in order

Problem: Wanting Flex Items to Always Stack





Solution: flex-direction

The default value is row and it accepts: row row-reverse column column-reverse.

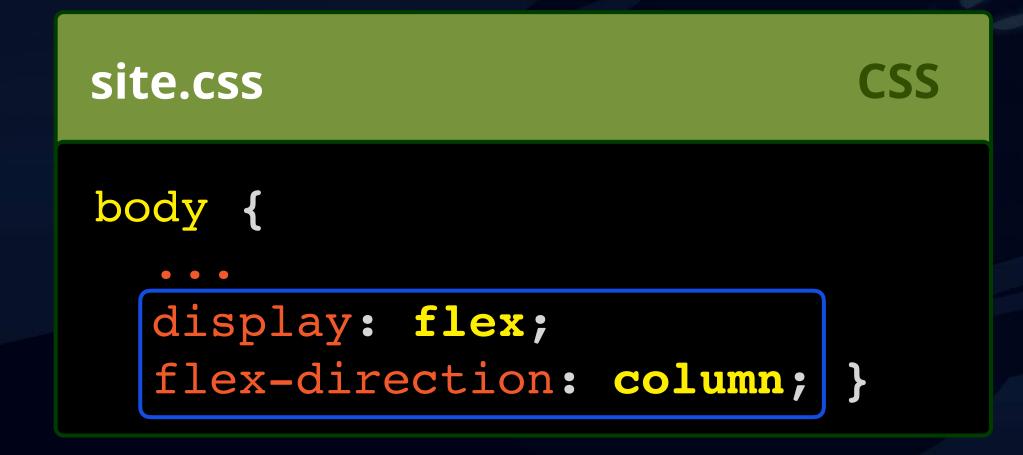
```
site.css

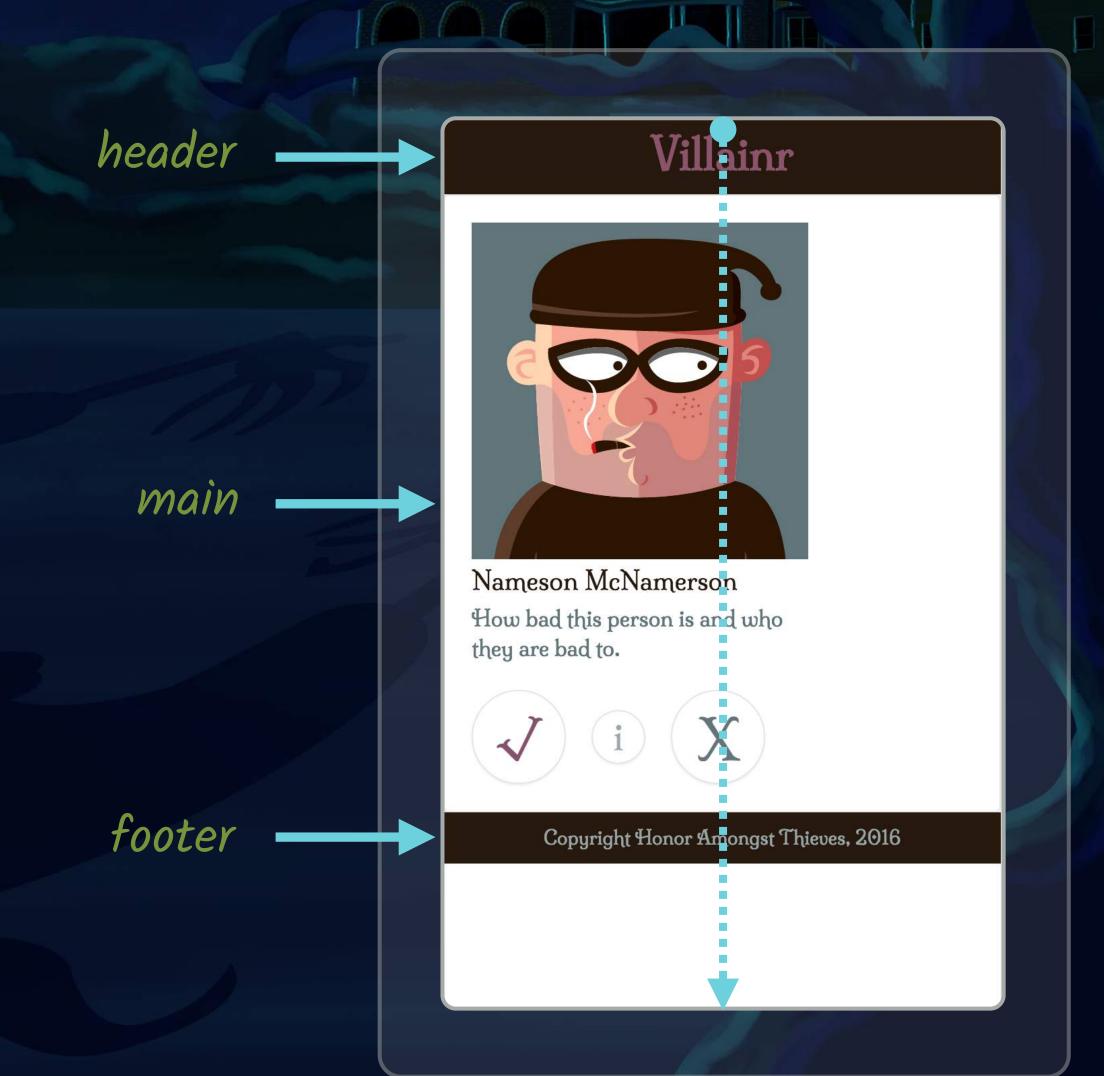
main {
    display: flex;
    flex-direction: column; }
```



Page Layout With flex-direction

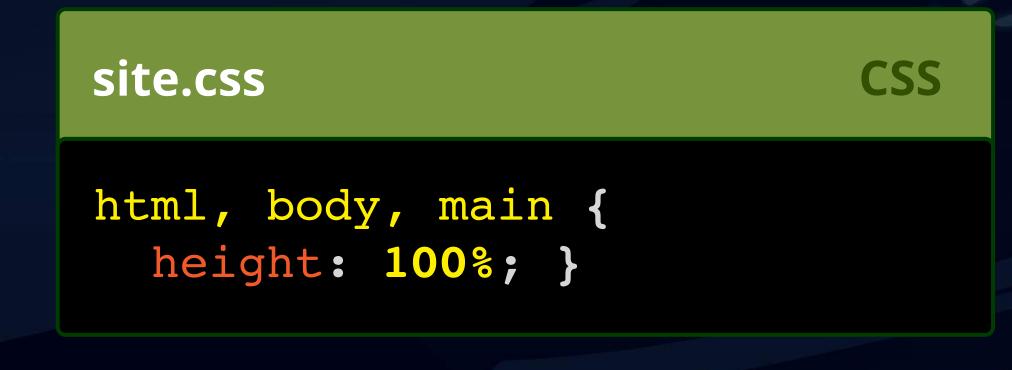
Main elements for layout are flex items with the column direction.





Mixing in Some Non-flexbox CSS

Setting the page elements to 100% height uses all available space.



Nameson McNamerson
How bad this person is and who
they are bad to.

Stays at the bottom
of the screen

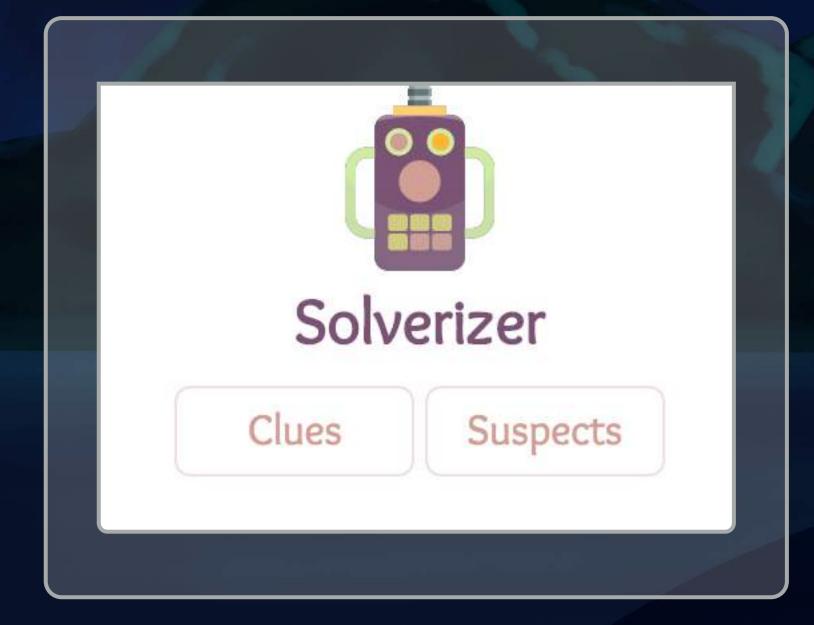
Copyright Honor A Ingst Thieves, 2016

Villainr



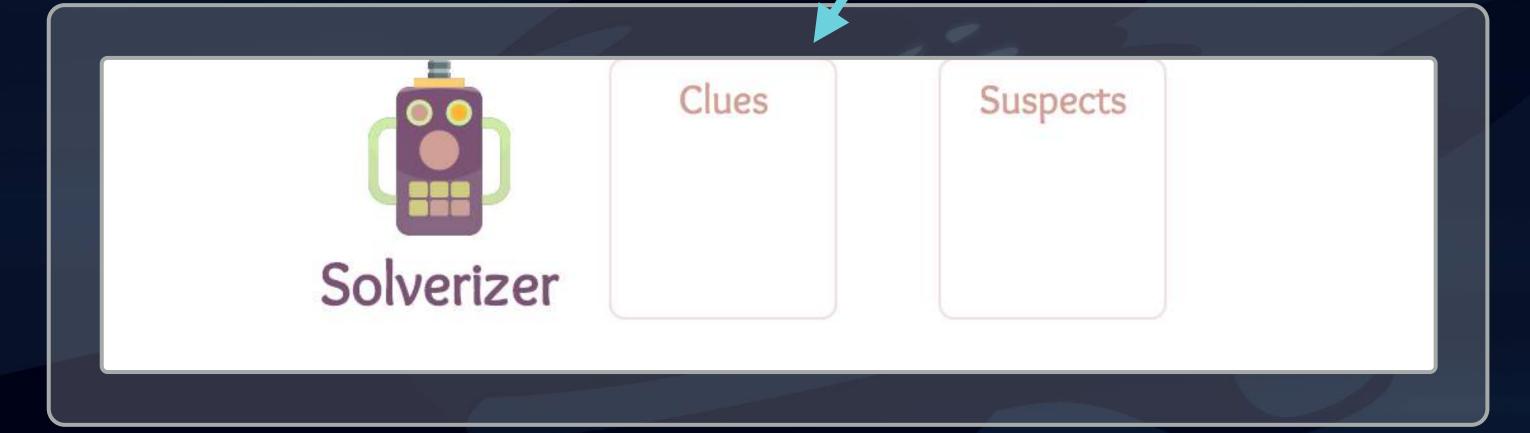


Example Patterns



Positioning elements vertically

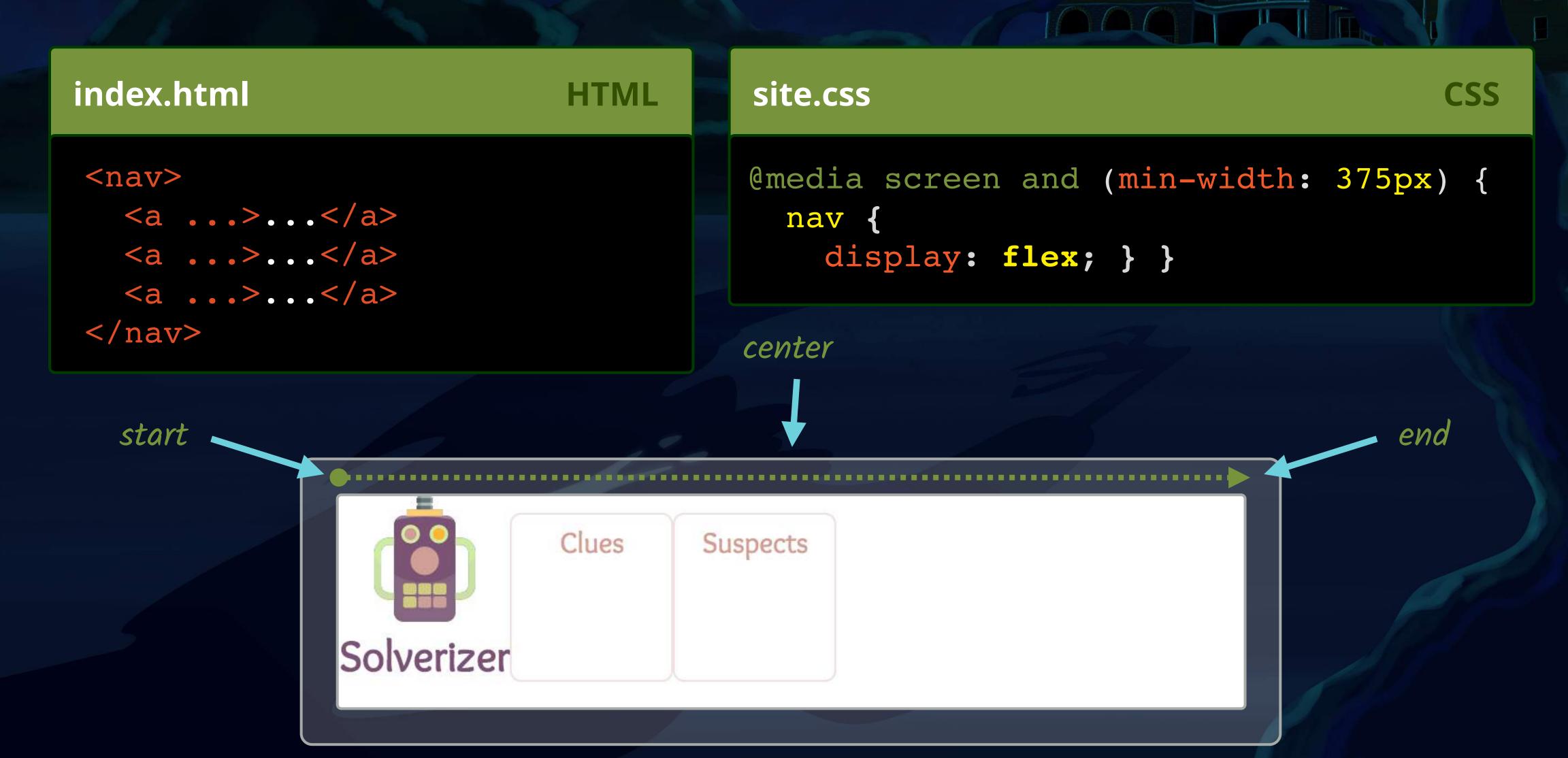
Positioning elements horizontally





Flex Items Are Distributed Along Axes

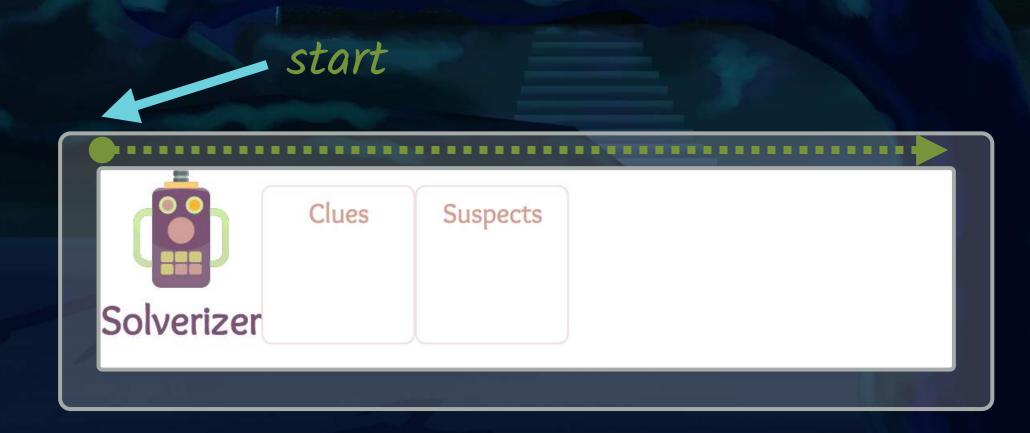
The main axis is determined by the flex-direction.

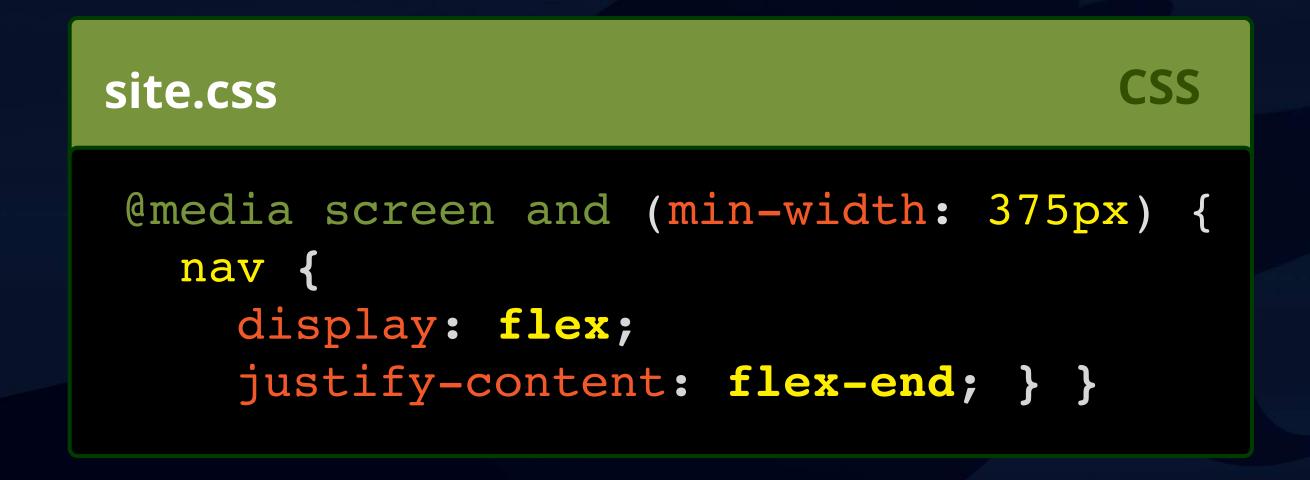


justify-content

Used to distribute space on the main axis, the default value is flex-start and it accepts:

```
flex-start | flex-end | center | space-between | space-around.
```







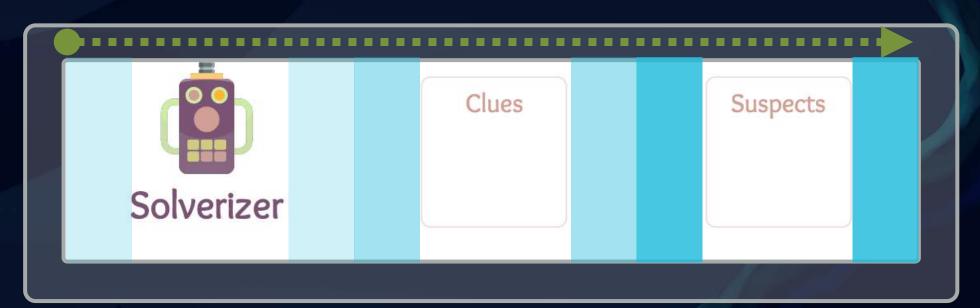
Spacing Values for justify-content

Flexbox's spacing algorithm distributes available space between elements.





Space added around each element



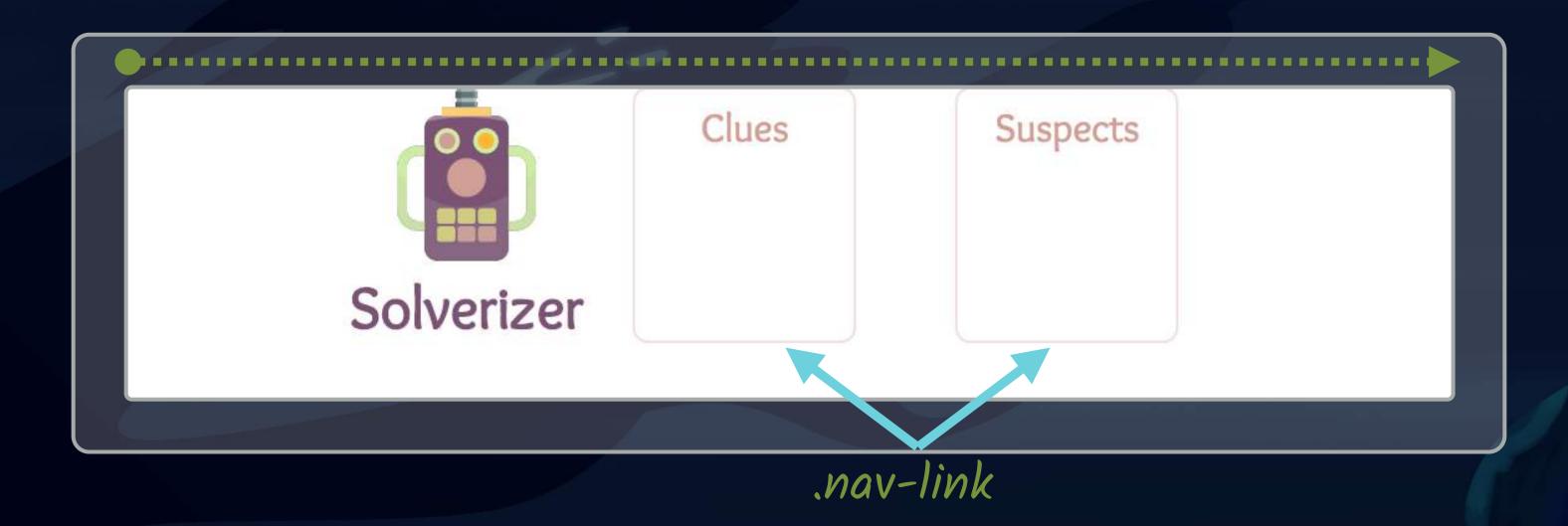
Our Example Uses center

Content center aligns with container center



Adding Space With Non-flexbox CSS

Margin and padding can be applied to flex items.



Justifying Content in a Column

Main elements for layout are flex items with the column direction.

```
main {
    display: flex;
    flex-direction: column;
    justify-content: center; }
```







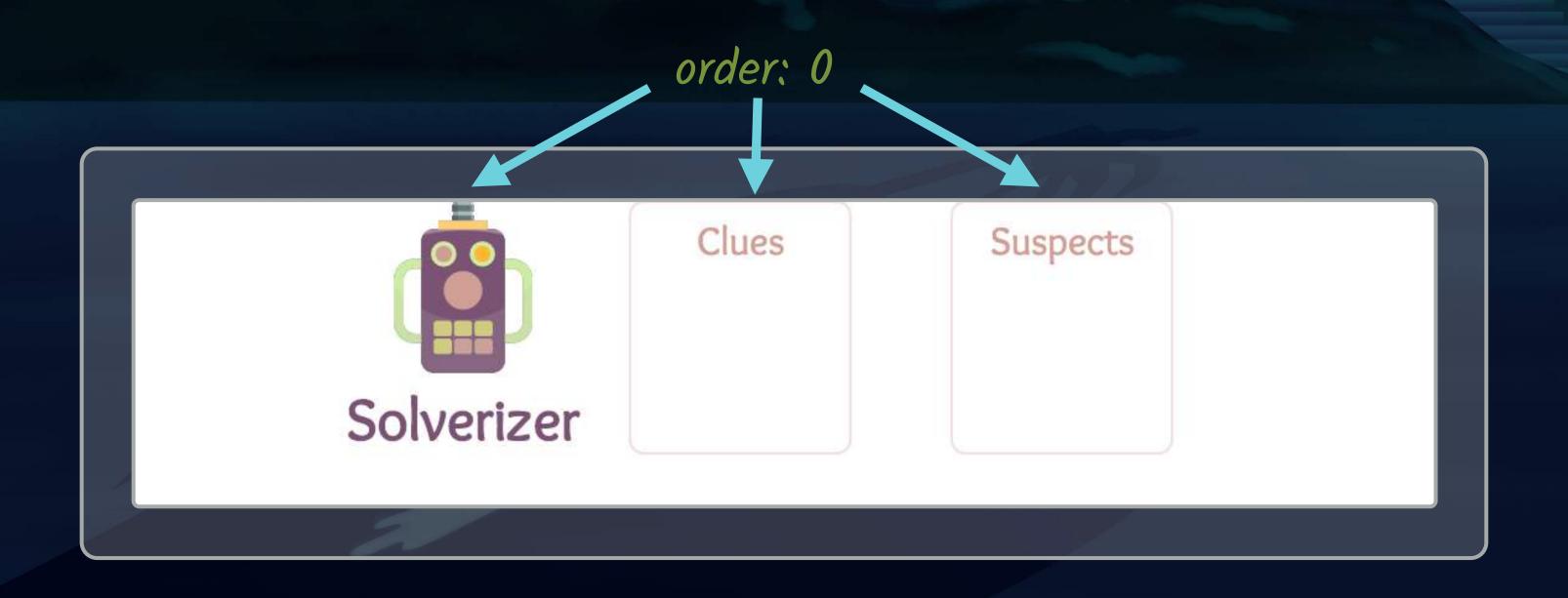


Display Position Can Be Changed With CSS



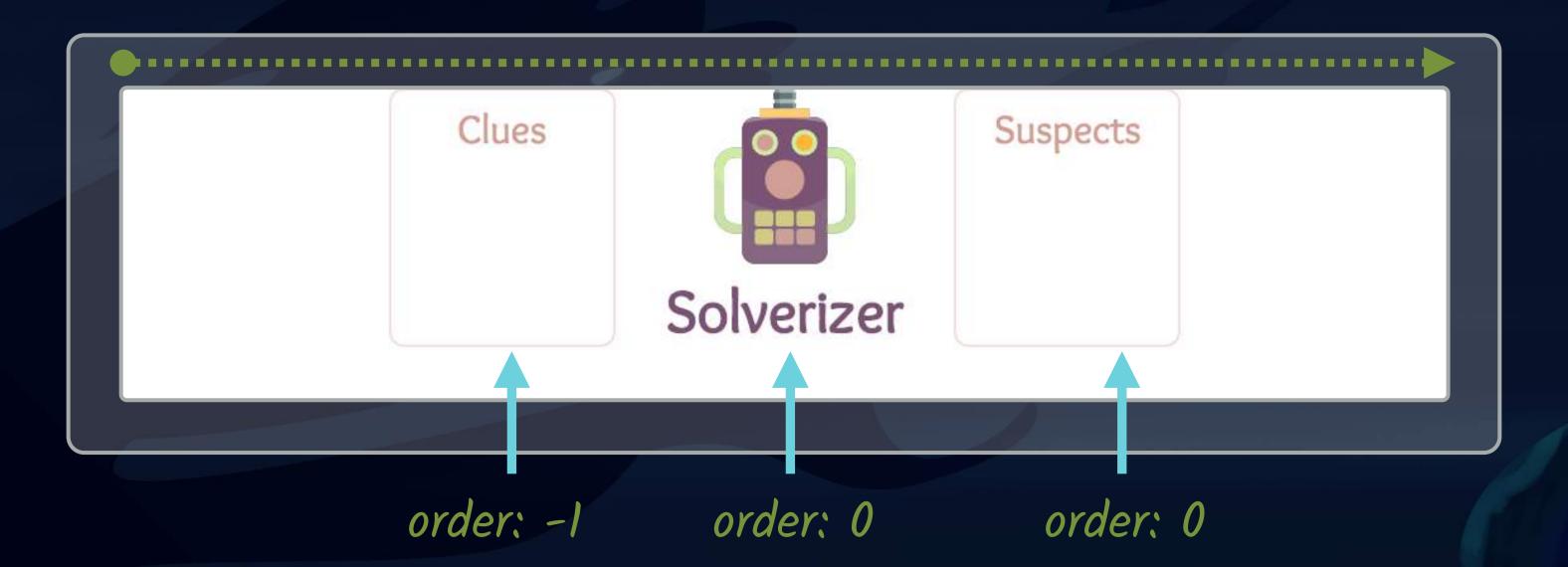
order

order is used to determine the order of flex items along the main axis. It defaults to 0 and accepts positive and negative numbers.



Changing the Order of a Flex Item

Using a negative number displays an item first, based on the flex-direction.



Changing Order of a Flex Item in a Column

Order changes the position of items along the main axis of the column.







Distributing Space on the Cross Axis

Before



After



Before

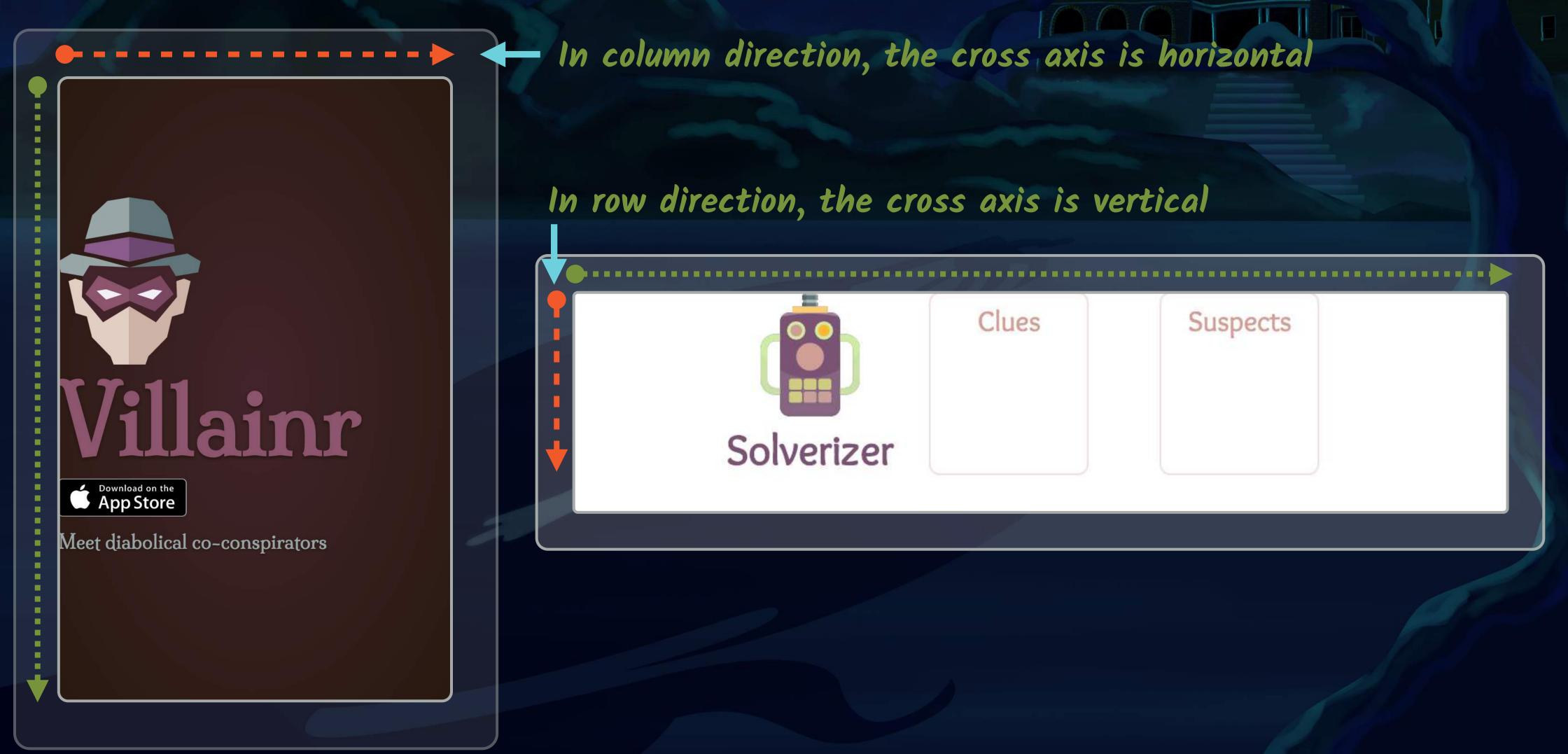


After



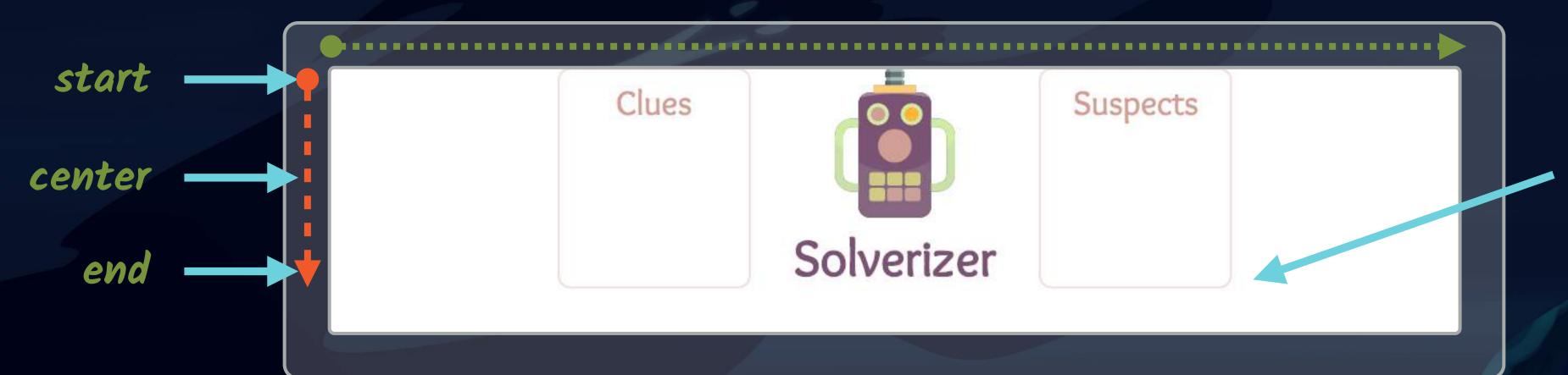
Flex Items Are Aligned Along a Cross Axis

The cross axis is perpendicular to the main axis.



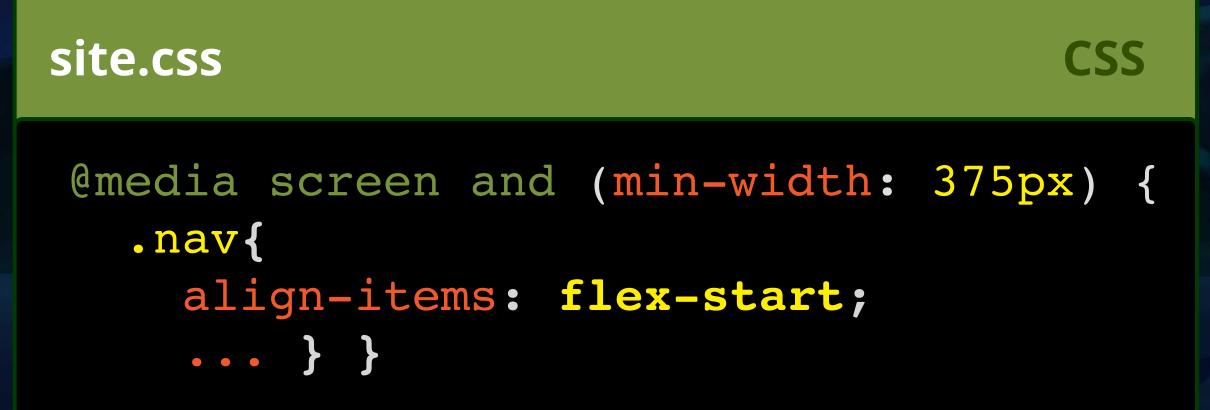
align-items

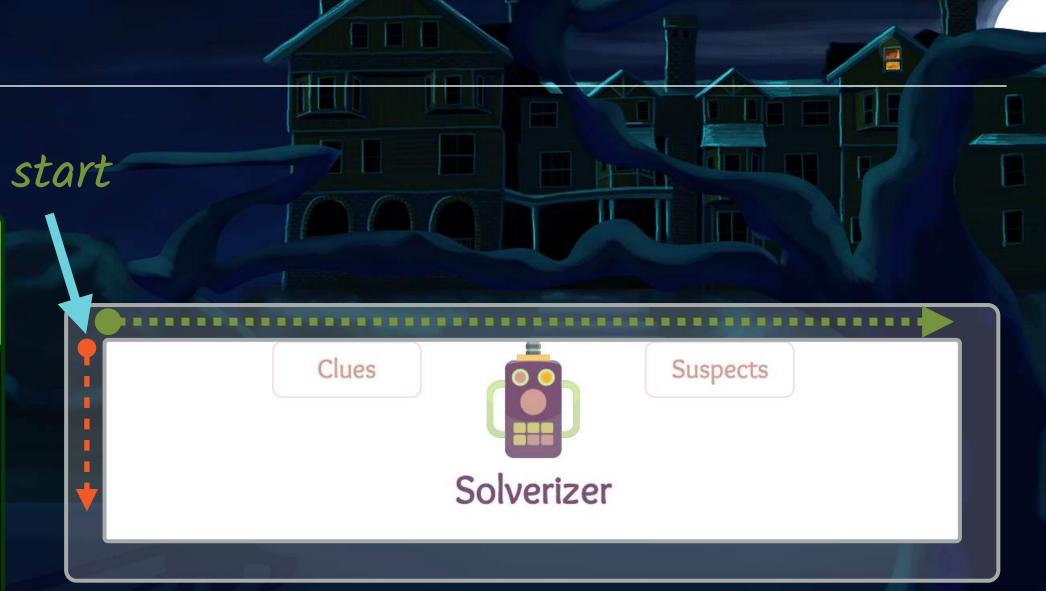
Used to align content on the cross axis, the default value is stretch and it accepts: stretch | flex-start | flex-end | center | baseline.



Stretch fills available space

Start and End





```
site.css

@media screen and (min-width: 375px) {
    .nav{
      align-items: flex-end;
    ... } }
```



Baseline and Center



```
site.css

@media screen and (min-width: 375px) {
    .nav{
      align-items: center;
      ... } }
```



Aligning Items in Column Direction

Items stretch to fill the width of the container.

```
site.css

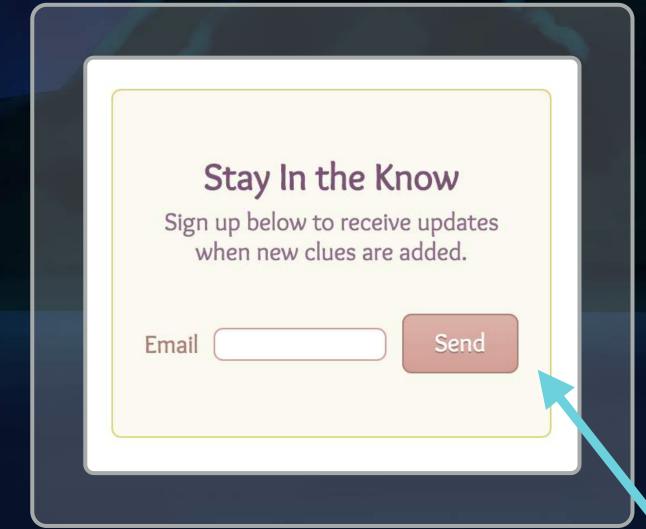
...
main {
    align-items: center;
    ...}
```



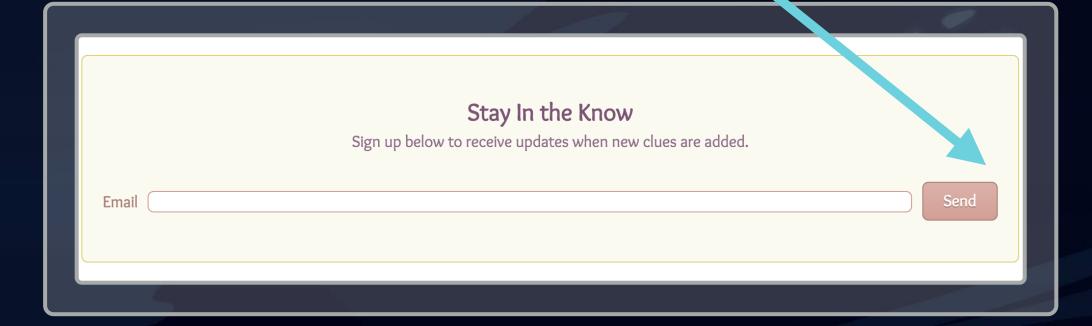


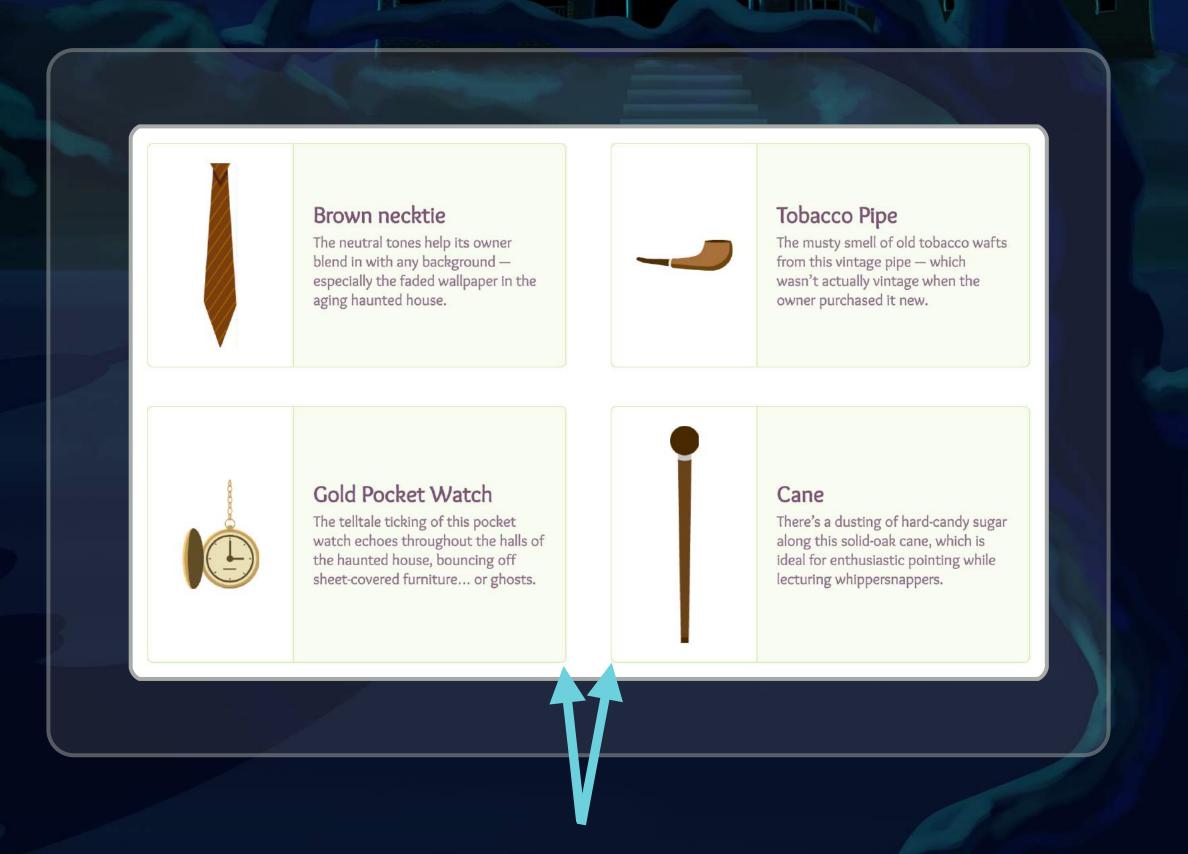


Examples, Sized With Flex Properties



Grow to use available width





Defined widths for items

(Mostly) Default Behavior

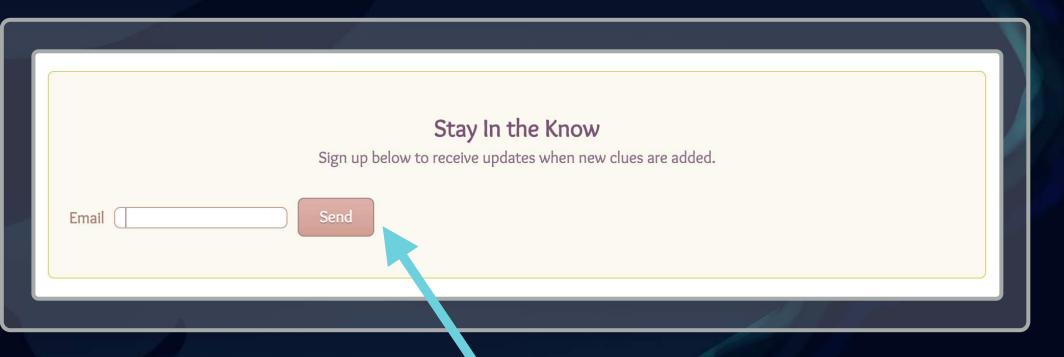
```
index.html HTML

<div ...>
      <label ...>...</label>
      <input class="add-input">
            <button>
            </div>
```

```
site.css

...
.add-input {
   align-items: center;
   display: flex;
   min-width: 0; }
```



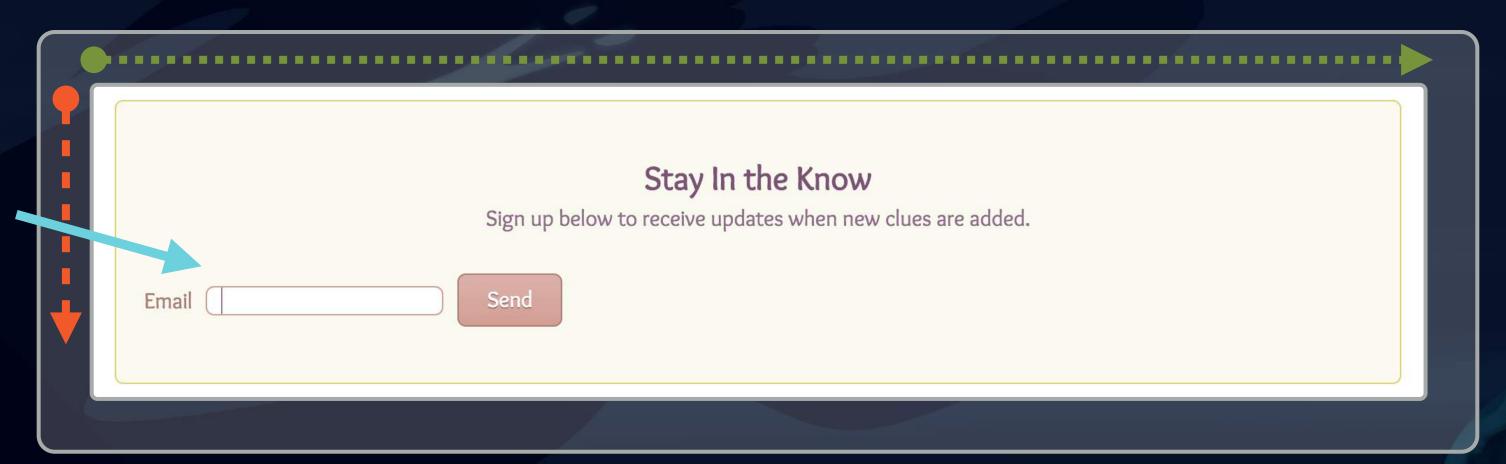


Fills content space

flex-grow

Used to specify the ratio of the space an item should fill in the main axis. It accepts numbers and the default is 0.

Items don't grow
beyond content size

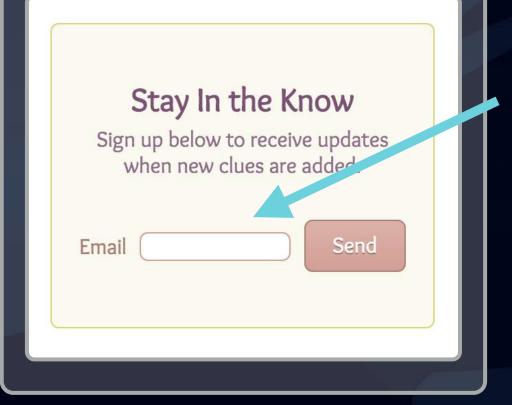


Using flex-grow for a Single Item

Assigning a value of 1 makes an item fill as much space as possible.

```
index.html HTML

<div ...>
      <label ...>...</label>
      <input class="add-input">
            <button ...>...</button>
      </div>
```

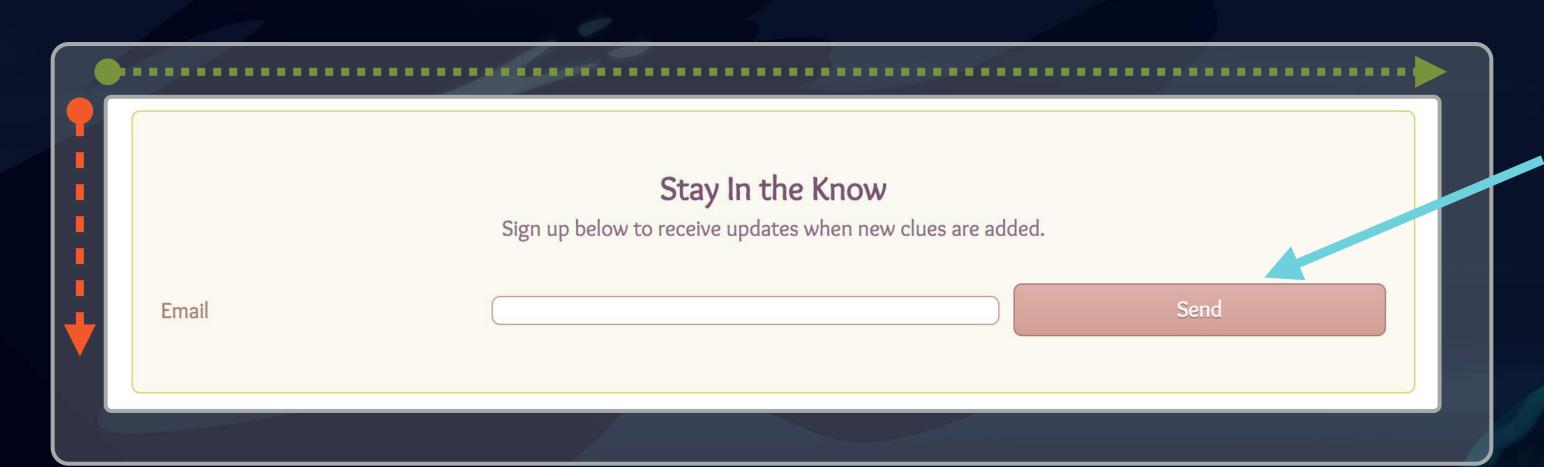


Fills all available space



Using flex-grow for Multiple Items

Assigning a value of 1 to multiple properties will have them all try to fill as much space as possible.



Each item divides the space

Using flex-grow With Empty Containers

Empty flex containers will divide the space according to the ratio.

```
Ratio No Content

One, 250px

.two, 500px

.three, 250px
```

Using flex-grow With Same-sized Content

Content alters how the algorithm divides space.

```
index.html HTML

<div class="one">Width: 274px</div>
<div class="two">Width: 452px</div>
<div class="three">Width: 274px</div>
```

Ratio With Content

Width: 274px

Width: 452px

Width: 274px

Using flex-grow With Uneven Content

Content with different widths will affect the ratio size.

```
index.html HTML

<div class="one">...</div>
<div class="two">...</div>
<div class="three">...</div>
```

16 characters

18 characters

```
UnEven Content

One Width: 279px

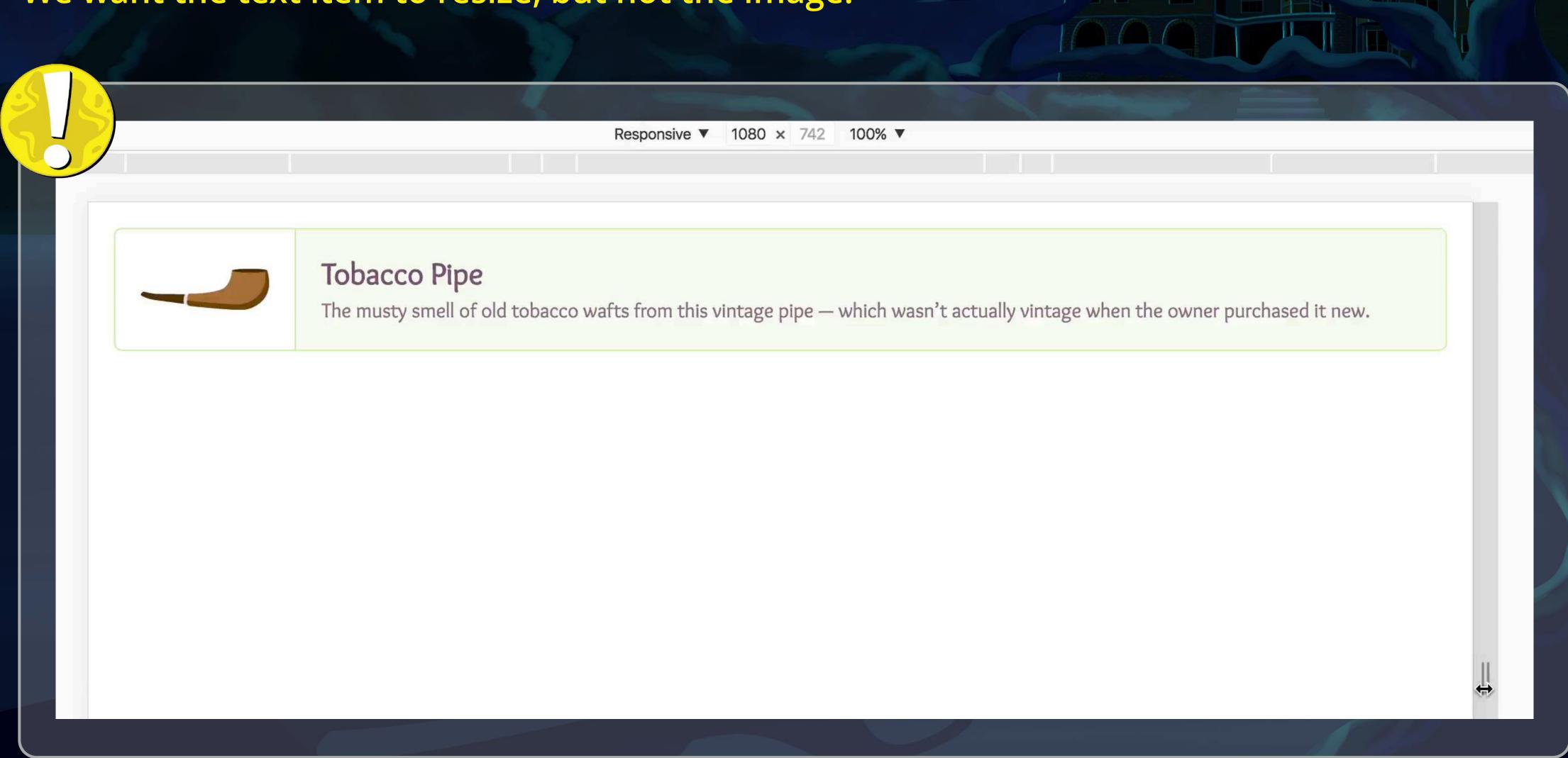
Two Width: 433px

Three Width: 288px
```

16 characters

Growing Pains

We want the text item to resize, but not the image.



flex-shrink

Used to specify the "shrink factor" of a flex item. It accepts numbers and the default is 1,

```
site.css

...
.clue-img {
  flex-shrink: 0; }
```

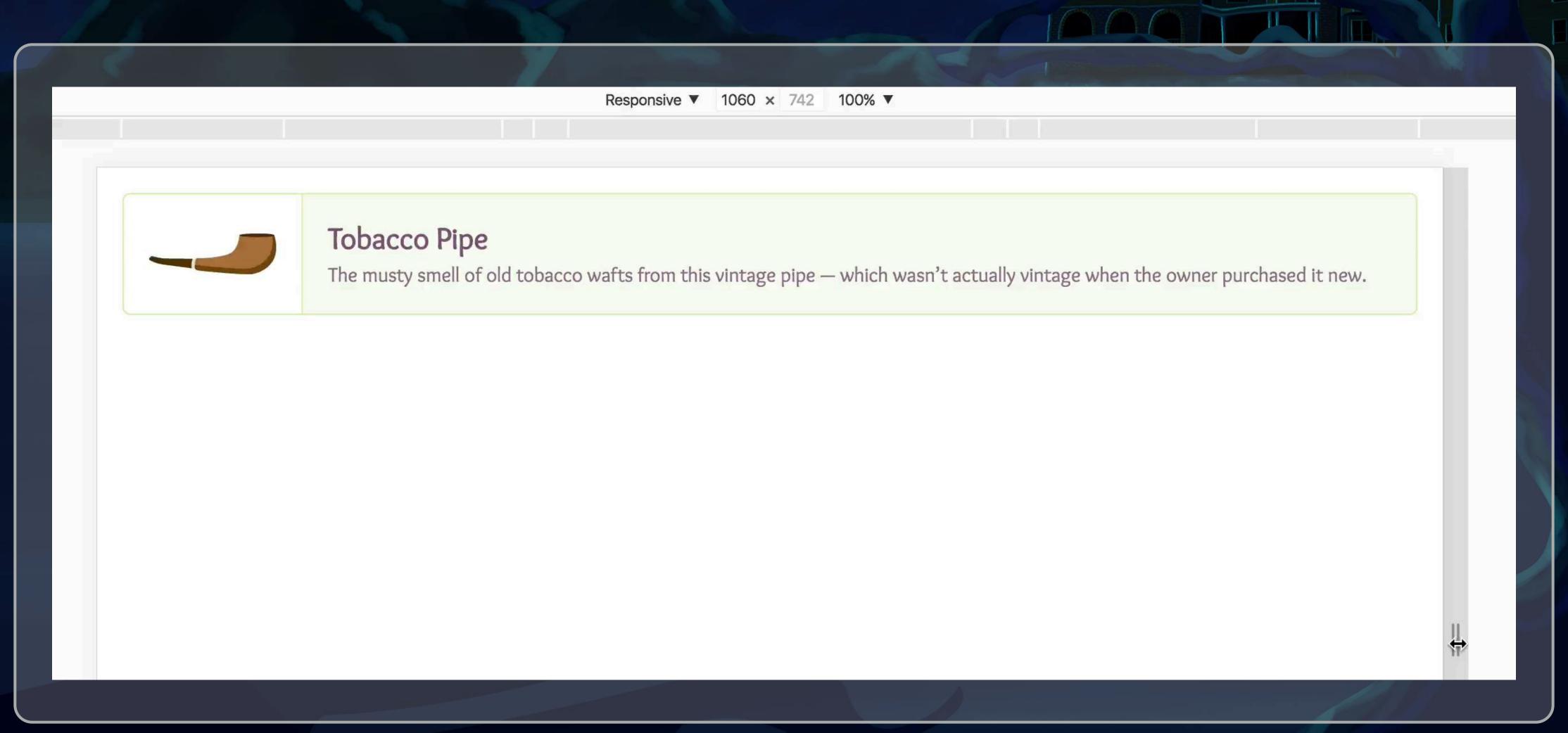
Tobacco Pipe

The musty smell of old tobacco wafts from this vintage pipe — which wasn't actually vintage when the owner purchased it new.

Does not reduce in width

flex-shrink: 0 in Action

The .clue-img div remains the same size.







Problem: Defined Widths for Flex Items





Brown necktie

The neutral tones help its owner blend in with any background — especially the faded wallpaper in the aging haunted house.



Tobacco Pipe

The musty smell of old to bacco wafts from this vintage pipe — which wasn't actually vintage when the owner purchased it new.



Gold Pocket Watch

The telltale ticking of this pocket watch echoes throughout the halls of the haunted house, bouncing off sheet-covered furniture... or ghosts.



Cane

There's a dusting of hard-candy sugar along this solid-oak cane, which is ideal for enthusiastic pointing while lecturing whippersnappers.



Brown necktie

The neutral tones help its owner blend in with any background — especially the faded wallpaper in the aging haunted house.



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The musty smell of old tobacco wafts from this vintage pipe — which wasn't actually vintage when the owner purchased it new.



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The telltale ticking of this pocket watch echoes throughout the halls of the haunted house, bouncing off sheet-covered furniture... or ghosts.



Cane

There's a dusting of hard-candy sugar along this solid-oak cane, which is ideal for enthusiastic pointing while lecturing whippersnappers.

Consistent widths

flex-basis

Used to specify the initial size of a flex item. It defaults to auto and currently supports CSS units: %, px, em, rem, etc.

justify-content: space-between

index.html

HTML

CSS

```
<article class="clue">
     <div class="clue-img">...</div>
     <div class="clue-info">...</div>
</article>
```

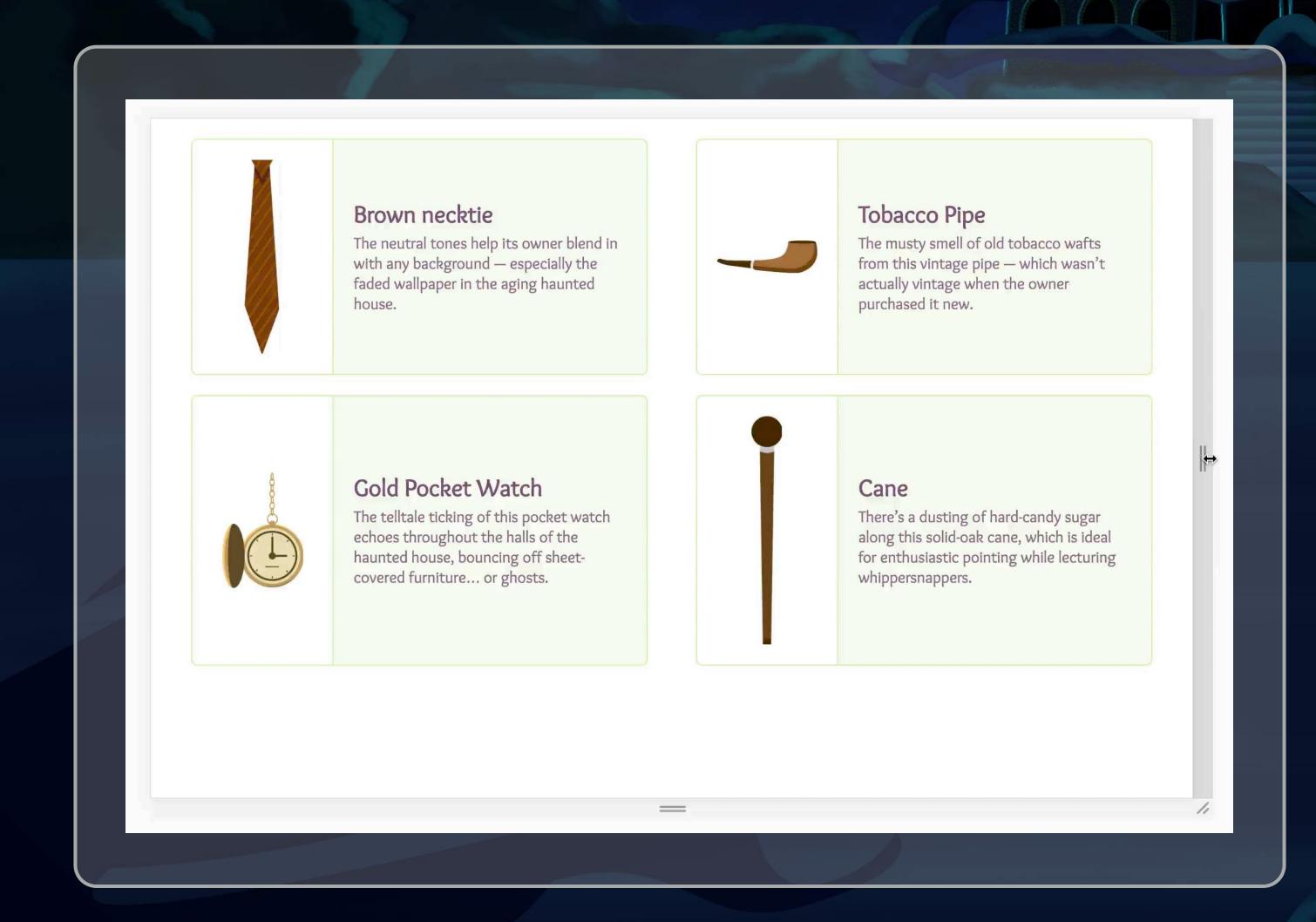
site.css

```
...
.clue{
  flex-basis: 47.5%; }
.clue-img {
  flex-basis: 140px; }
```



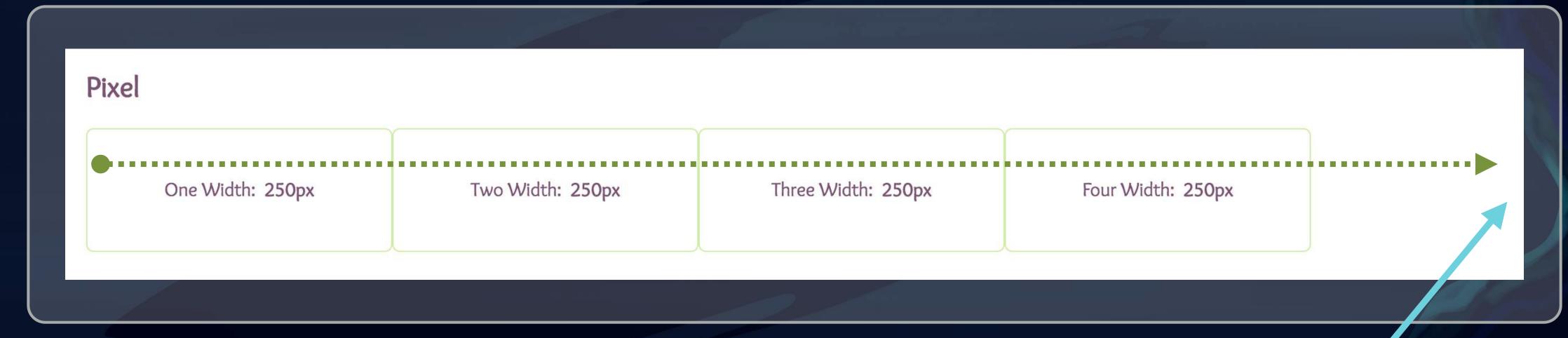
Combining flex-basis and flex-shrink

With one item set to a pixel-based value, the other will adjust to fill the remaining space.



Using flex-basis and Absolute Units

Items with a flex-basis that is an absolute unit will not grow beyond the value by default.



The flex container is 1166px

Using flex-basis and relative units

Items with a relative flex-basis will grow to fill the space.

Percentage

Width: 290px

Width: 290px

Width: 290px

Width: 290px

Width: 290px

Width: 290px

Pixel with flex-grow: 1

One Width: 290px

Two Width: 290px

Three Width: 290px

Four Width: 290px

More flex-basis Properties — Maybe!

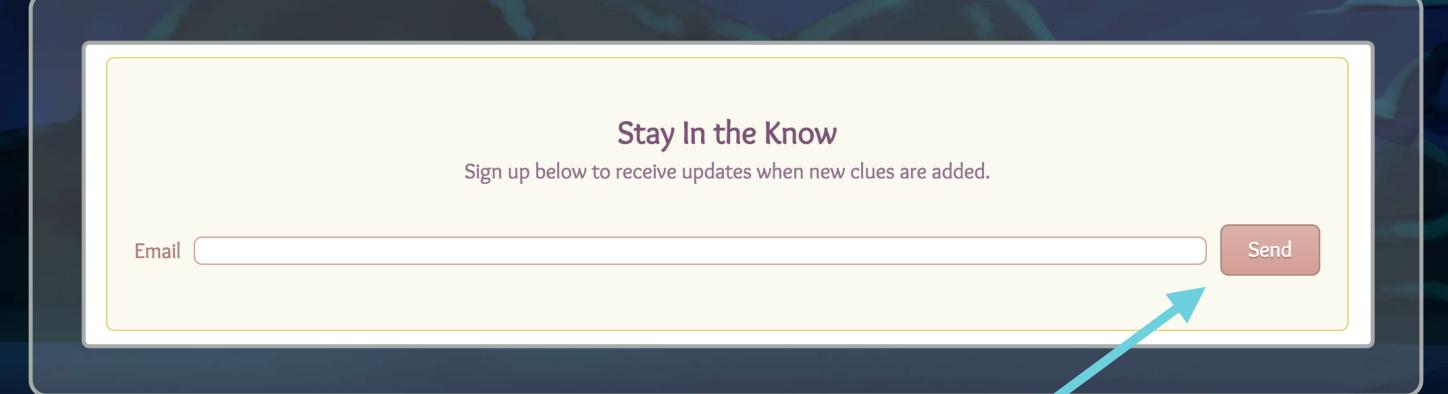
There are more properties that are proposed but not currently implemented in browsers.

```
/* Intrinsic sizing keywords */
flex-basis: fill;
flex-basis: max-content;
flex-basis: min-content;
flex-basis: fit-content;
/* Automatically size based on the flex item's content */
flex-basis: content;
```





Our Layouts Could Use Some Polish



Can we make the heights match?

How can we center this?

Villainr



How bad this person is and who they are bad to.







Copyright Honor Amongst Thieves, 2016

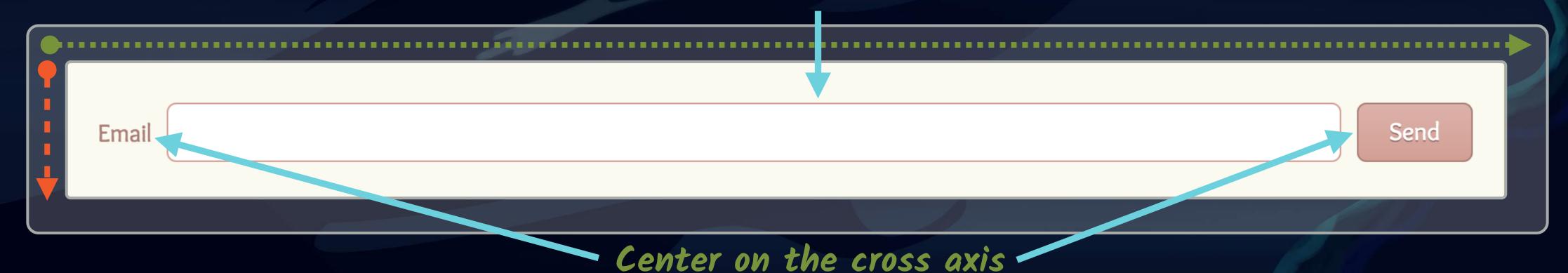
align-self

Used to align individual flex items by overriding the align-items value. The default value is stretch and it accepts: stretch | flex-start | flex-end | center | baseline.

```
index.html HTML

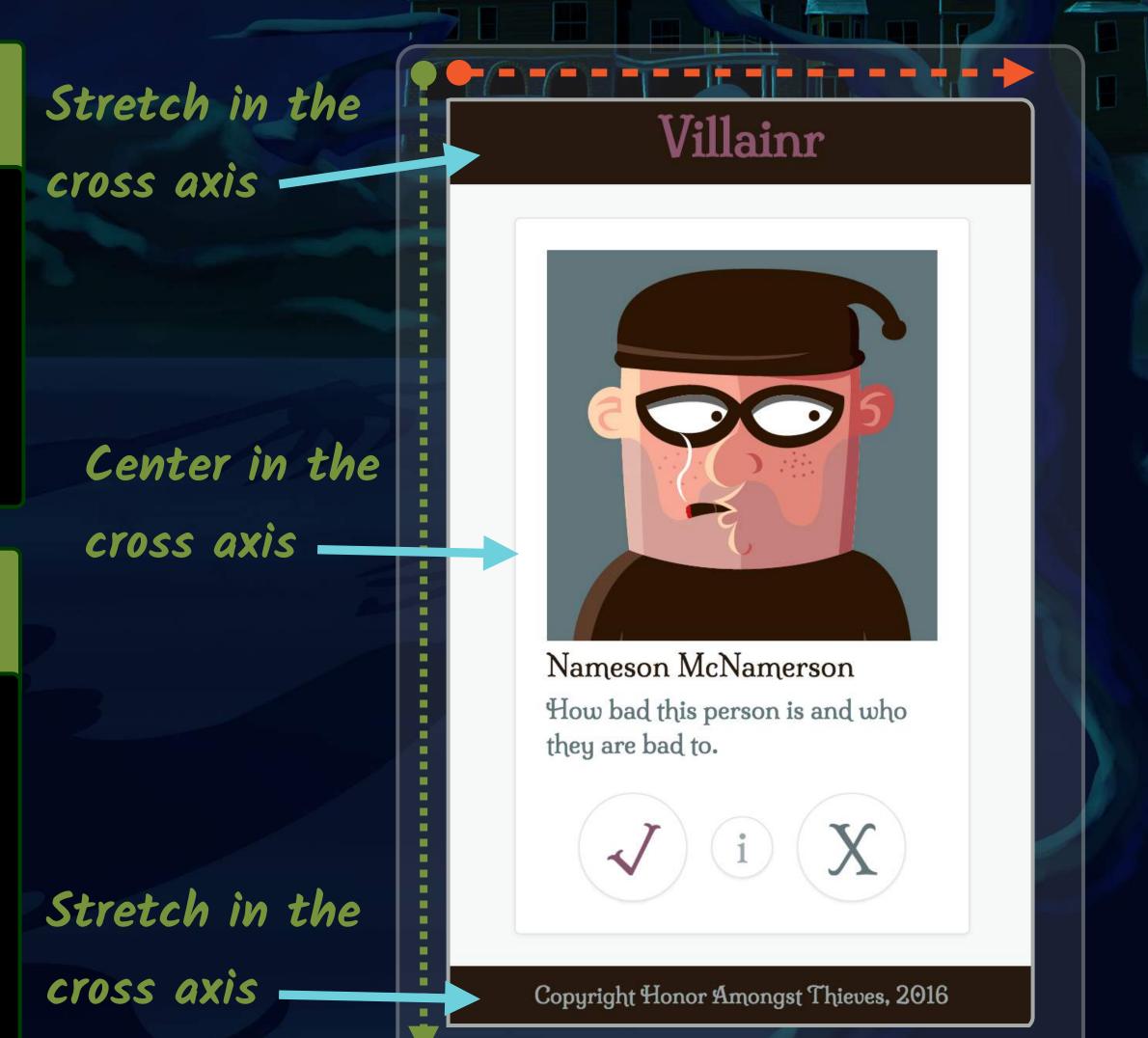
<div class="fieldset">
     <label ...>...</label>
     <input class="add-input">
          <button ...>...</button>
     </div>
```

Stretch on the cross axis



Using align-self in a Flex Column

```
body {
    ...
    align-items: stretch; }
main {
    align-self: center;
    ... }
```



Controlling Page Layout With flex-wrap



```
body {
    flex-wrap: wrap;
header, footer {
    flex-basis: 100%;
}
```

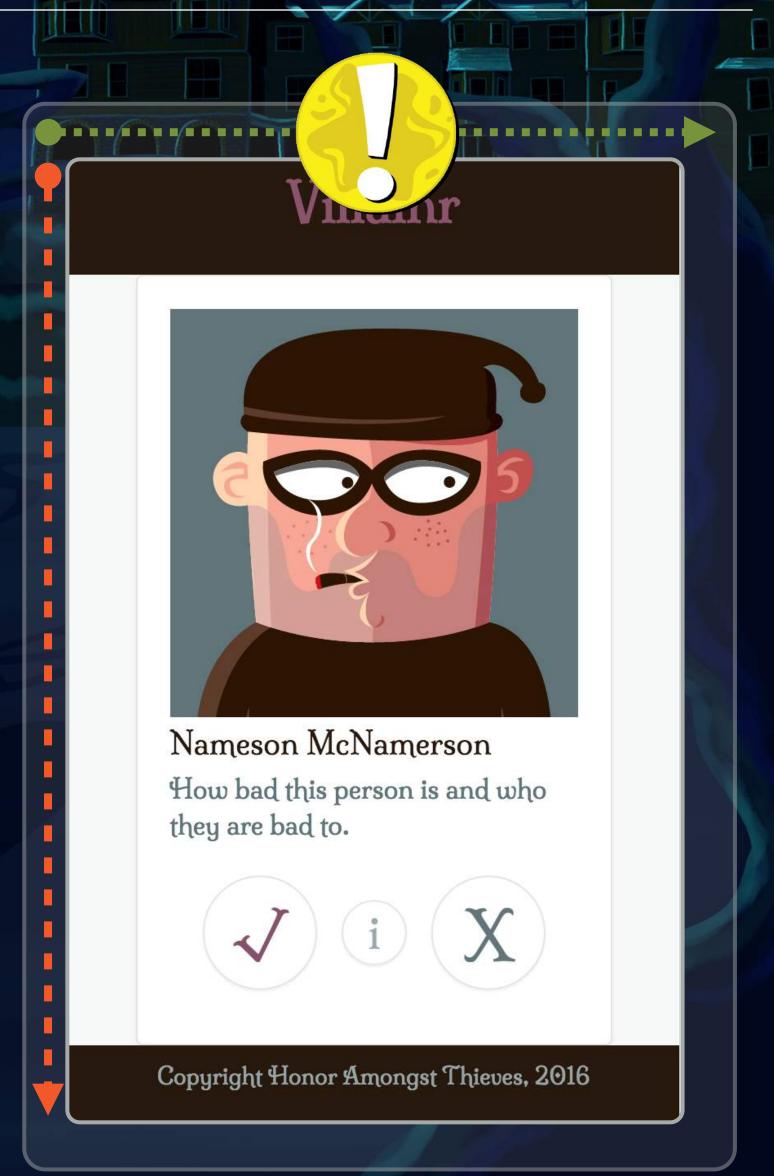
Each item
defaults to
stretch



align-items Doesn't Control Wrapped Items

```
body {
    align-items: space-between;
    flex-wrap: wrap; }
header, footer {
    ...
    flex-basis: 100%; }
```

No change?!



align-content

Used to align wrapped flex items. The default value is stretch and it accepts: stretch

```
flex-start | flex-end | center | space-between | space-around.
```

```
index.html HTML

<body

...</body>
```

```
body {
    align-content: space-between;
    flex-wrap: wrap; }
    header, footer {
        ...
        flex-basis: 100%; }
```

Space between







flex

Shorthand property used to set values for flex-grow, flex-shrink, and flex-basis. The default is: 0 1 auto.

*If you have to support older IE, you may want to avoid shorthand.

More, Shorter Examples

Single number assigns the grow value

```
site.css

.flex {
  flex: 1; }
```

Two numbers assigns the grow, shrink values

```
site.css

.flex {
  flex: 1 0; }
```

More, Short Examples

Single number and percentage assigns the grow and basis values

```
site.css

.flex {
   flex: 1 47.5%; }
```

None sets shrink value, removing flex behavior

```
site.css

.flex {
  flex: none; }
```

flex-flow

Shorthand property used to set values for flex-direction and flex-wrap. The default is: row nowrap.

flex-flow Examples

Single direction value sets the direction and defaults to wrap

Single wrap value sets the wrap and defaults to row

