

# CSS units are confusing

AF 🤔

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

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

# **vw/vh (relative)**

vw/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



# 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. "rem is 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.

# 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.



**Its hard to remember  
right Sooo...**

**HIT THAT SAVE**



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