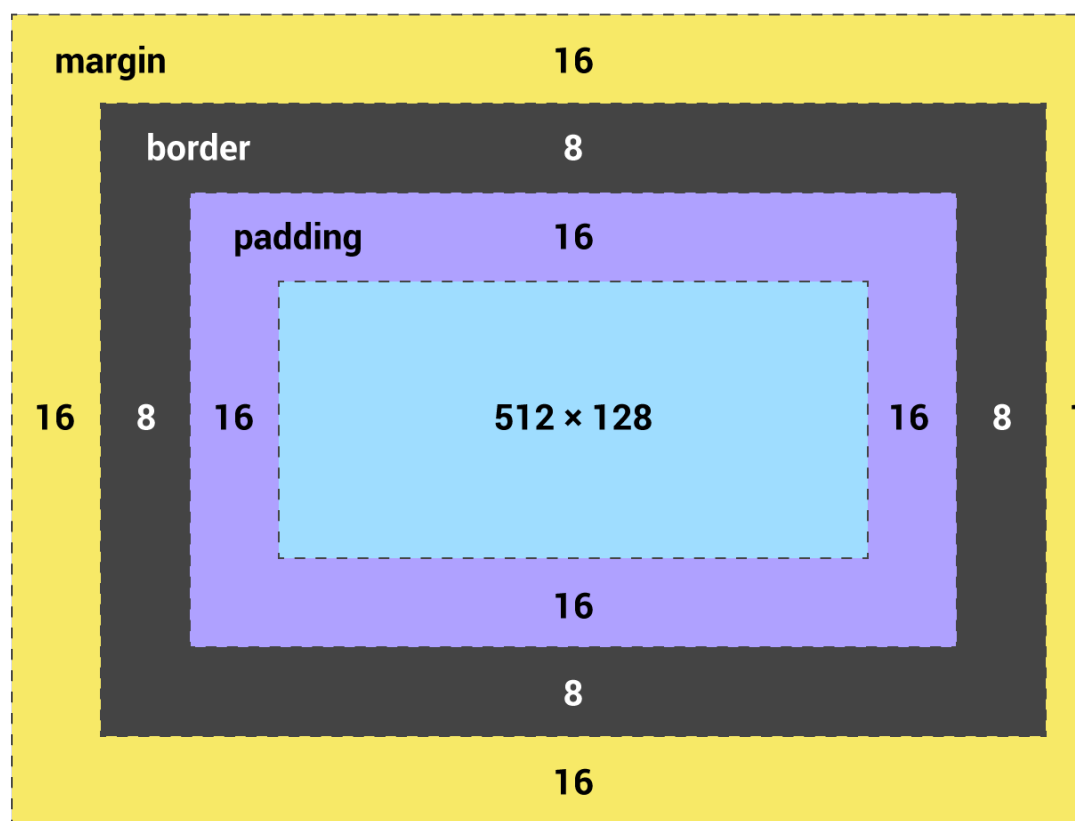


Margins



The margin is an optional, invisible space that surrounds the border of the box. A margin can have positive or negative values. A positive value will push other elements away. However, a negative margin on one side of the box will cause the box to move closer to neighboring elements. For example, a negative **margin-right** value will cause the box to move to the right, with the potential to overlap with other elements on the page. Margins are added to the box after the border and padding have been set.

It is possible to set all of the margins for an element at the same time using the margin property. You can also set each side individually using longhand properties:

- **margin-top** Sets the margin area for the top of an element.
- **margin-right** Sets the margin area on the right side of an element
- **margin-bottom** Sets the margin area on the bottom of an element.
- **margin-left** Sets the margin area for the left side of an element.

Margins can be specified using pixels, ems, and percentage measurements. You can also write the shorthand method. Click on the following tab to view some examples of the margin shorthand method.

Margin Shorthand

top side, 4em assigned to the right, 2em assigned to the bottom, and 5em assigned to the left.

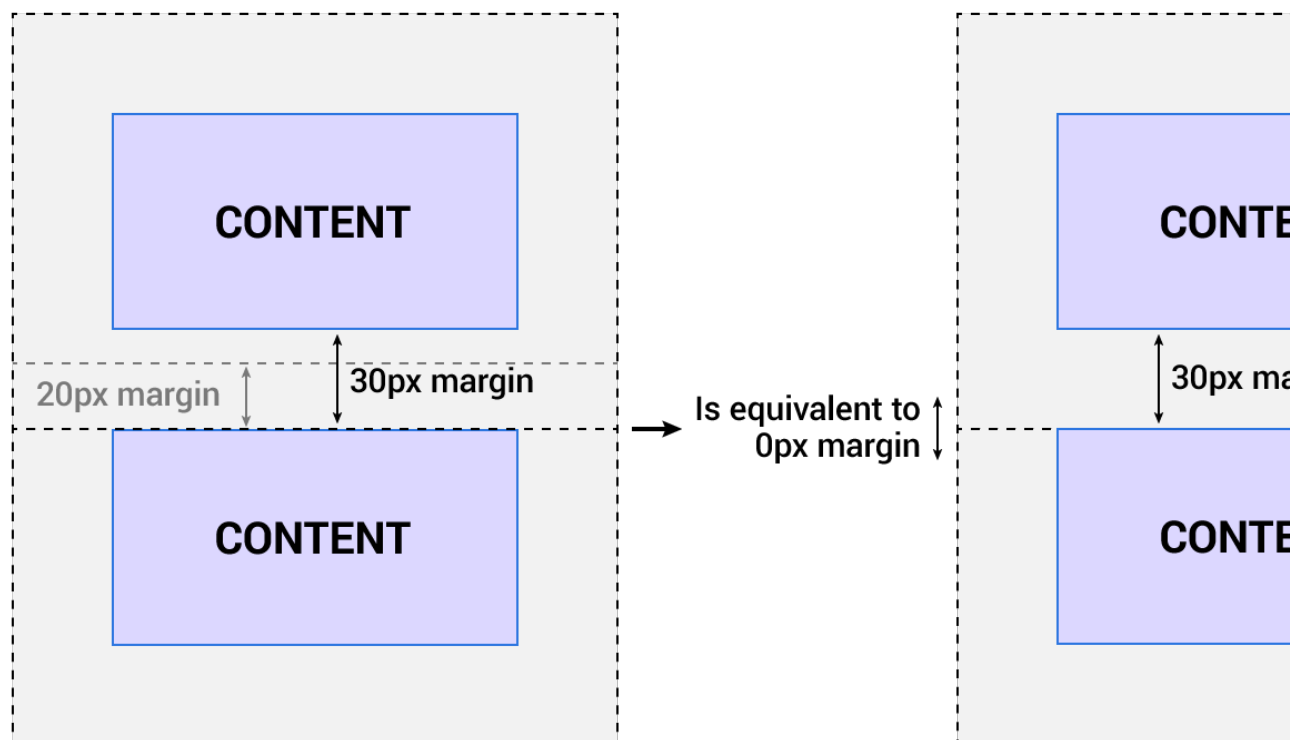
If only one value is specified, it will be applied to every side, giving each side a margin of 1em. If two values are used, let's say 3em and 4em, then the top and bottom will have 3em applied and the left and right will have 4em applied. If three values are used, let's say 3em, 4em, and 2em, then the top margin will be assigned 3em, the right and left will be assigned 4em, and the bottom will be assigned 2em.

Collapsing Margins

There are a few unique margin property behaviors to be aware of. One of them is margin collapse, which occurs when the top and bottom margins of two adjacent, vertical **block elements**. What happens is the margin with the lower value collapses into the margin with the higher value. Effectively, instead of the margins being added together, they overlap and the higher value takes precedence.

In the example below on the left, the margin-bottom is set to 30px, while the margin-top has been set to 20px. Due to the margin-top having higher priority and the margin remains 30px, rather than 50 as the values are not added together with the margin collapse effect. The image on the bottom right shows the margin-top for the bottom content box set at 0px, with no effect on the margin collapse effect.

Collapsing Margins



If there is a border or padding in your code in between the margins, then collapsing will not occur since the boxes are not touching; they will be separated by a border or the padding specified.

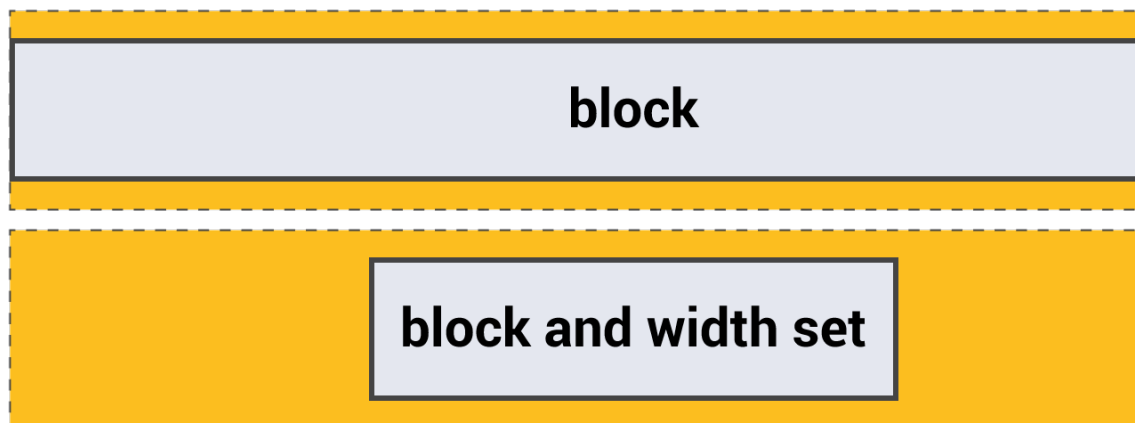
This video file cannot be played.
(Error Code: 224002)

[View the Transcript](#)

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Centering Block Elements

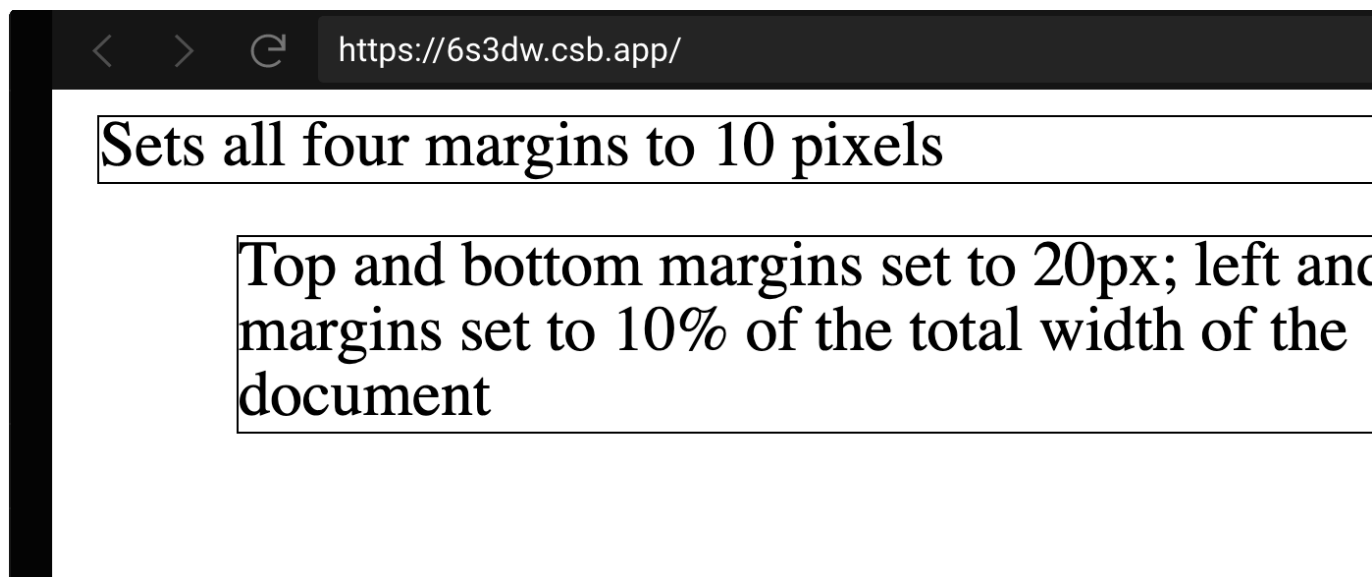
Block elements can be centered by combining width dimensions with the **margin: 0 auto** property. In the image, the first block element has its margins set to margin: 0 auto. You can see that the first block takes up the entire width of the container. This is a result of the first block having a default width of 100%. For the second row, the width of the block is set to 300px and margin: 0 auto, causing the element to be centered. You can create the same effect by using the width and margin properties in the bottom row in the image.



```
<body>
  <p style="font-size: 20px; margin: 10px; border: 1px solid black;">
    Sets all four margins to 10 pixels
  </p>

  <p style="font-size: 20px; margin: 20px 10%; border: 1px solid black;">
    Top and bottom margins set to 20px; left and right margins set to
    total width of the document
  </p>
</body>
```

Enter this code into the code tool and see how it renders. You should see the following:



A portion of the HTML appears below. *Note: Not all of the code fits into this image.

```
1 <!DOCTYPE html>
2 <html>
3   <head>
4     <title>CSS Margin Lab1</title>
5   </head>
6
7   <body>
8     <p style="font-size: 25px; margin: 10px; border: 1px solid black;">
9       Sets all four margins to 10 pixels
10    </p>
11
12    <p style="font-size: 25px; margin: 20px 10%; border: 1px solid black;">
13      Top and bottom margins set to 20px; left and right margins set to
```

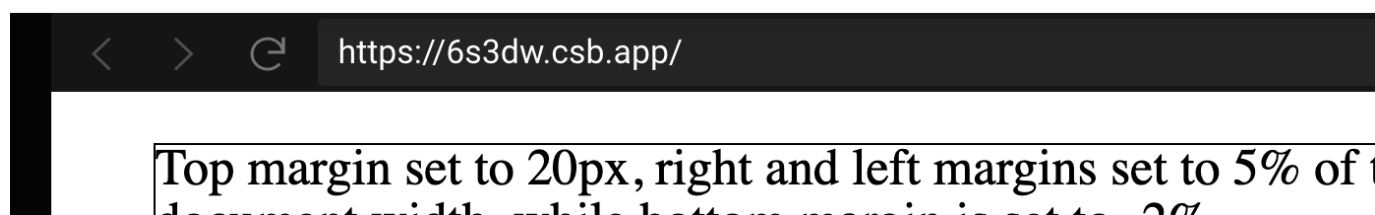
```
<body>
  <p style="font-size: 20px; margin: 20px 5% -2%; border: 1px solid black;">
    Top margin set to 20px, left and right margins set to 5% of total
    width, while the bottom margin is set to -2%
  </p>

  <p style="font-size: 20px; margin: 20px 10% -10%; border: 1px solid black;">
    Top margin set to 20px, right and left margins are set to 10% of
    document width, and bottom margin is set to -10px
  </p>
</body>
```

Upon entering the code into the HTML file, you should see the following:

```
1 <!DOCTYPE html>
2 <html>
3   <head>
4     <title>CSS Lab</title>
5     <link rel="stylesheet" href="styles.css" />
6   </head>
7
8   <body>
9     <p style="font-size: 20px; margin: 20px 5% -2%; border: 1px solid black;">
10      Top margin set to 20px, right and left margins set to 5% of
11      document width, while the bottom margin is set to -2%
12    </p>
13
14    <p style="font-size: 20px; margin: 20px 10% -10%; border: 1px solid black;">
15      Top margin set to 20px, right and left margins are set to 10% of
16      document width, and bottom margin is set to -10px
17    </p>
18  </body>
19 </html>
```

When rendered, the HTML code will look like the following:



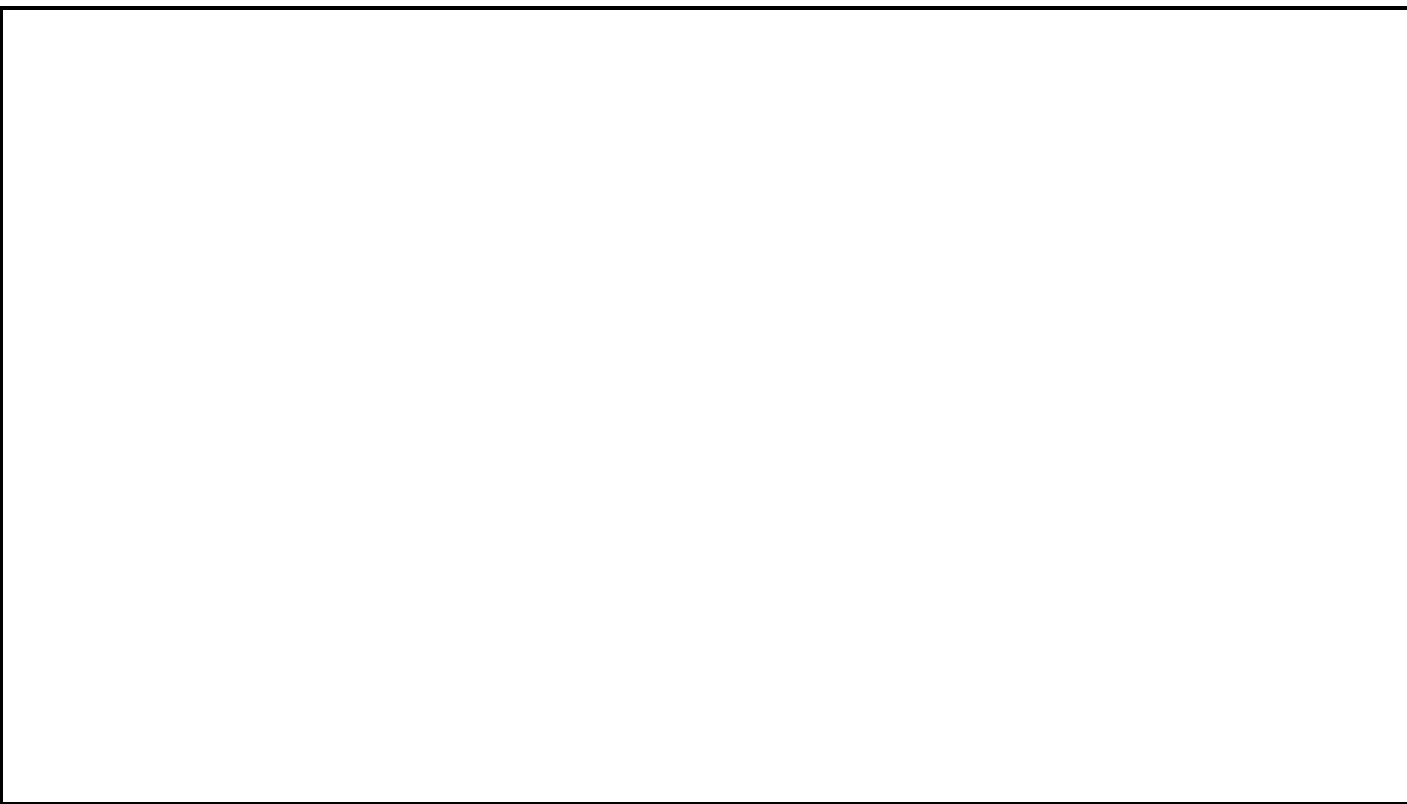
- A font size of 20px.
- Padding that includes 1rem 2rem 3% 4px.
- A margin set to 0 auto.
- A border specified as 1 pixel in width and in solid red.

The HTML could look like the following:

```
1 <!DOCTYPE html>
2 <html>
3   <head>
4     <title>CSS Lab</title>
5     <link rel="stylesheet" href="styles.css" />
6   </head>
7
8   <body>
9     <body>
10    <p style="font-size: 20px;
11          padding: 1rem 2rem 3% 4px;
12          margin: 0 auto;
13          border: 1px solid red;">
14      Margins are set to 0 auto, padding is set to 1rem, 2rem, 3
15    </p>
16  </body>
```

Upon rendering, you should see the following result:

Margins are set to 0 auto, padding is set to 1rem, 2rem, 3% and 4px for the respective sides represented by the TRouBLE rule



Theme Select:

rubyblue