Block-level and Inline Elements

Every HTML element has a default display value depending on its type. The two display values are block and inline. This assignment focuses on defining and identifying the differences between **block-level elements** and **inline elements**.

The difference between block-level and inline elements

- Block-level elements always start on a new line and take up 100% of the width available to them.

- Inline elements do not start on a new line and only take up as much space as they need.

The following example illustrates code containing both block-level and inline elements.

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
  <head>
    <title>Block and inline elements</title>
    <meta charset="utf-8">
  </head>

  <body>
    <h1>Headings are block-level elements</h1>
    <p>A paragraph is a block-level element. It takes up the full width
      available to it.</p>
    <hr>
     <h2>Inline elements</h2>
    <p>A paragraph is a block-level element, but it can
      contain <b>inline elements</b>.</p>
  </body>
</html>
```

The image below illustrates how the above code renders in a browser window. Notice how the block-level elements render on a new line, while the inline element renders on the same line.

Headings are block-level elements

A paragraph is a block-level element. It takes up the full width available to it.

Inline elements

A paragraph is a block-level element, but it can contain **inline elements**.

Please click on the following tabs to learn more about block-level and inline elements.

▸ **Block-level Elements**

Browsers render block elements as if they were rectangular boxes that are stacked one on top of another on a page. Every block element on a page begins on a new line. The browser adds space above and below the entire block element by default.

The following are characteristics associated with block-level elements:

- Block-level elements appear in the body of an HTML page
- Block-level elements can contain both inline elements and other block level elements
- Block-level elements stretch to fill the full width of its container
- Block-level elements will always start on a new line; in other words, they will render similar to having a line break before and after them

The following HTML elements are block-level by default:

- <div>
- <form>
- <img>
- <nav>
- <p>
- <section>
- All header tags

**This list is not complete. There are many other block-level elements in HTML.

Example: Block-level Element

The following code snippet illustrates how a block-level element renders in a browser window. In this example, the block-level element is the paragraph element (<p>). Notice in the browser window, the content between each paragraph appears on a new line.

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
  <head>
    <title>Block-level Elements</title>
  </head>
  <body>
<p>Block-level elements start on new lines</p>
<p>The paragraph element is a block-level
element.</p>
<p>Notice each paragraph starts on a new
line in the browser window.</p>
  </body>
</html>
```

Block-level elements start on new lines

The paragraph element is a block-level element.

Notice each paragraph starts on a new line in the browser window.

Block-level Elements Tip

Block-level elements can't be placed within inline elements. For example, the <p> element cannot be placed inside the <span> element.

▸ **Inline Elements**

In contrast with block-level elements, inline elements do not start on a new line. Rather, they resemble their name — they stay within the line of text, or flow of the paragraph or other containing block-level element.

The following are characteristics associated with inline elements:

- Inline elements appear in the body of an HTML page
- Inline elements may contain text, data, or other inline elements. *Inline elements may not contain block elements*
- Inline elements only take up the space that they need, in contrast with block-level elements
- Inline elements do not begin on new lines, but rather, within an existing block-level element

The following HTML elements are inline by default:

- <a>
- <b>
- <img>
- <input>
- <span>

**This list is not complete. There are many other inline elements in HTML.

Example: Inline Element

The following code snippet illustrates how an inline element renders in a browser window. In this example, the inline element is <b> (bold text) tag. Notice in the browser window, the text inside the <b> tags appears in bold typeface, and remains *in line* with the content that surrounds it on either side on the same line.

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
  <head>
    <title>Inline Elements</title>
  </head>
  <body>
   <p>Inline elements stay within the line
      of text in which they are placed.</p>
    <p><b>Notice</b> how the inline element
      example used here (the bold element)
      did not begin on a new line.</p>
  </body>
</html>
```

Inline elements stay within the line of text in which they are placed.

Notice how the inline element example used here (the bold element) did not begin on a new line.

Review Checkpoint

To test your understanding of the content presented in this assignment, please click on the Questions icon below. If you have trouble answering any of the questions presented here, you are always free to return to this or any assignment to re-read the material.

1. True or False?

Inline elements *always* start on a new line.

a. True

Incorrect. Try again.

b. False

Correct. This is a false statement. By default, inline elements do not begin on new lines.

2. True or False?

Inline elements may contain block-level elements.

a. True

Incorrect. Try again.

b. False

Correct. This is a false statement. Inline elements may not contain block-level elements.