Breaking HTML content into column with CSS

We have studied flexbox and grid layouts. Now, we will see another way to layout HTML content into columns.

Sometimes you just need a part of a website that should be formatted in columns instead of having the whole content of the page in a column layout. That is when the CSS property *column-count* might come handy. The *column-count* CSS property is well supported among browsers as you can see at [caniuse.com website](#).

Check the **column.html** file that you will find among the files you downloaded for this course. Notice the *column-count* CSS property used in the *twocol* class that is applied to the first paragraph that is inside the *main* element. When you open this web page in the browser, you will notice that only that first paragraph, with the *twocol* class, will be formatted within 2 columns.

But the great thing about this CSS property is that it works equally well for the content of elements that are children of the element with that CSS property applied. If you delete the *class* attribute from the first paragraph and apply it to the *main* element and save the file, you will be able to open it again in the browser, and you will notice that the two paragraphs, inside the *main* element, are formatted within 2 columns.

The other CSS properties you can use to enhance the appearance of the columns are: *column-gap* and *column-rule*. The *column-gap* sets the size of the gap (gutter) between the columns and the *column-rule* sets the width, style, and color of the line drawn between the columns. If you modify the code of **column.html** to be (showing below only the CSS class twocol that was modified, and the modified/added code is shown in red bold color):

```
.twocol {
    column-count: 2;
    column-gap: 50px;
    column-rule: 3px solid red;
}
```

If you save the file an open the web page in the browser, you should see something like the image below:

Column Layout in action

This paragraph will be split in two columns using the CSS property column-count. We will also demonstrate other CSS properties using this same content that will enhance the appearance of these two columns. Only this paragraph will have the content split in two columns. The following paragraph will be in a normal layout as it does not have the class twocol applied to it. Read the rest of the lecture to learn about the other CSS properties related to column-count and also about the inheritance feature of this CSS property. For this particular scenario, only the CSS property column-count could do it - we could not have used the grid or flexbox layout as there are no other element(s) as children of this paragraph to become grid or flex items.

This is another paragraph without the class twocol which means that this paragraph will not be split in two columns. This paragraph will be formatted according to a normal format given to paragraph elements by browsers.

CNIT 132A class at CCSF

Extra Resources
[W3Schools column-count CSS property](#) – how to use CSS property column-count with nice examples

[Using column-count examples](#) – CSS Tricks article with explanation and example of column-count