

Introducing the Box Model

The Box model is arguably the most important concept you will learn in CSS as a whole. So, listen up!

The concept of the css box model is deceptively simple. Upon this *simple* concept lies the big shoulders of CSS. If I were to wrap the concept of the box model in a naive sentence, it would be this:

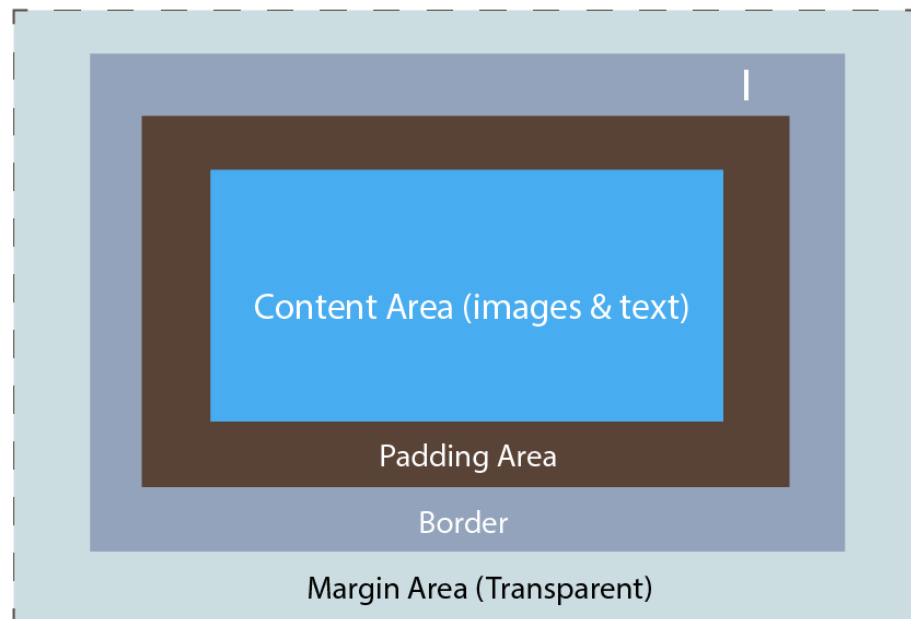
Every element on a web page is rectangular!

Pause for a moment, and think about this.

When you have a `div` or any other element within your document, what you have is a rectangular element, like a box. This Box has some features. These features make up the box model.

The Players in the Box Model

Consider the image below:



These are the “players” in the Box Model.

Don’t worry. At the end of this section, you’ll clearly understand the image above.

Take for instance some simple markup like so: `<div>I am a happy element</div>` When this is displayed on the page, all you see is the text, “I am a happy element”

What newcomers to the CSS language don’t realize is there’s more than meets the eye.

The text you see is the portion contained within the **content area** of the box element (**see graphic above**). The other areas, namely, **padding area**, **border** and **margin** are all **invisible**

In the coming lessons, we will explore these.

Do not forget:

Each element has a rectangular box model, which describes each of the rectangular boxes (areas) generated for the element

