

Sizing Background Images

In this lesson, we will use the background-size property to define the size of our background images. Let's begin!

WE'LL COVER THE FOLLOWING

- Using **cover** and **contain** for enhanced control

Using **cover** and **contain** for enhanced control

All background images are displayed at the size you created them. This kind of sizing does not fit every situation, and you need more control to handle the displayed size of the image.

The **background-size** property is the tool you can use in these situations. You can use the **cover** or **contain** keyword, specify exact pixel sizes, or use percentage values, like in these samples:

```
background-size: cover;
background-size: contain;
background-size: 80px 120px;
background-size: 100% 100%;
background-size: 66% auto;
```



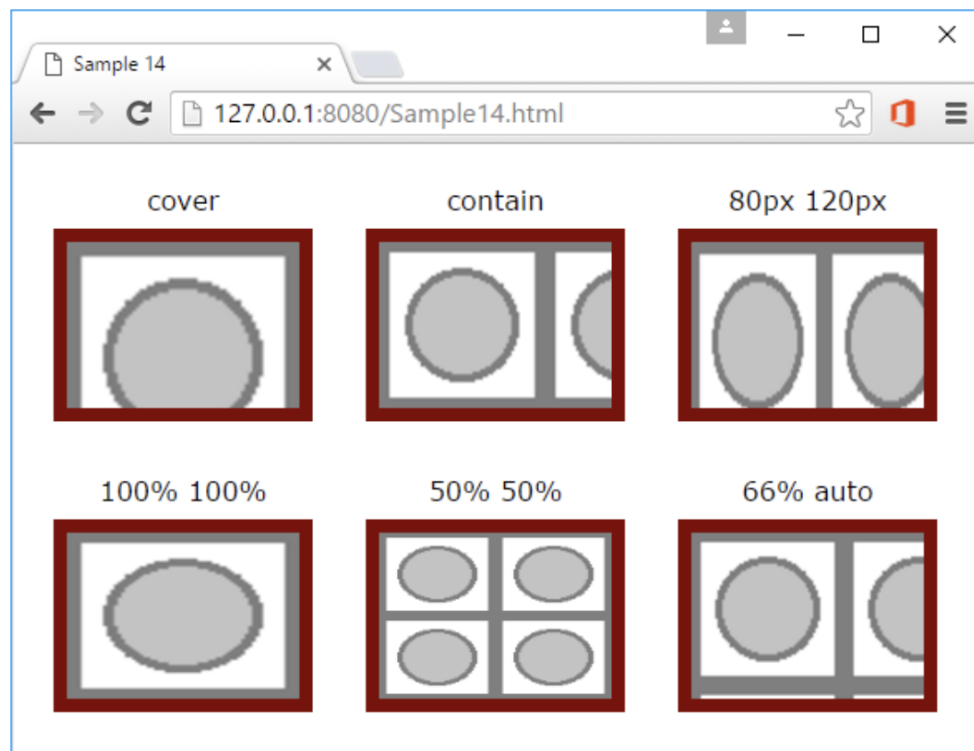
The **cover** value scales the background image to be as large as possible so that the background area is completely covered by the background image. With this method, some parts of the background image may be hidden.

The **contain** value scales the image to the largest size so that both its width and its height can fit inside the content area. Both values keep the aspect ratio of the image. The first two elements in the image below use **cover** and **contain**. When you specify exact pixel values (width and height) or other fixed-size units, such as ems or inches, the image is resized to the specified size. For example, the third picture in the first row in the image below uses exact pixel values (“80px 120px”).

exact pixel values (~80px 120px~).

You can specify percentage values, too. In this case, the width and height of the background image are set in the percent of the parent element's width or height. The first value sets the width, while the second value sets the height. You can set any of the values to `auto`, to size the picture while keeping the aspect ratio.

The second row of the image below shows percentage value examples.



Using the background-size property (Sample14.html)

In the *next lesson*, we will learn the background shorthand notation.