

CSS Align

Aligning Block Elements

A block element is an element that takes up the full width available, and has a line break before and after it.

Examples of block elements:

- <h1>
- <p>
- <div>

In this chapter we will show you how to horizontally align block elements for layout purposes.

Center Aligning Using the margin Property

Block elements can be aligned by setting the left and right margins to "auto".

Note: Using margin:auto will not work in Internet Explorer, **unless a !DOCTYPE is declared.**

Setting the left and right margins to auto specifies that they should split the available margin equally. The result is a centered element:

<pre><!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Transitional//EN" "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1- transitional.dtd"> <html> <head> <style type="text/css"> .center { margin:auto; width:70%; background-color:#FFCCCC; } </style> </head> <body> <div class="center"> <p>In my younger and more vulnerable years my father gave me some advice that I've been turning over in my mind ever since.</p> <p>'Whenever you feel like criticizing anyone,' he told me, just remember that all the people in this world haven't had the advantages that you've had.'</p> </div> <p>Note: Using margin:auto will not work in Internet Explorer, unless a !DOCTYPE is declared.</p> </body> </html></pre>	<p>In my younger and more vulnerable years my father gave me some advice that I've been turning over in my mind ever since.</p> <p>'Whenever you feel like criticizing anyone,' he told me, just remember that all the people in this world haven't had the advantages that you've had.'</p> <p>Note: Using margin:auto will not work in Internet Explorer, unless a !DOCTYPE is declared.</p>
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Tip: Aligning has no effect if the width is 100%.

Left and Right Aligning Using the position Property

One method of aligning elements is to use absolute positioning:

<pre><html></pre>	<p>In my younger and more vulnerable years my father gave me some advice that I've been</p>
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```

<head>
<style type="text/css">
.right
{
position:absolute;
right:0px;
width:300px;
background-color:#FFCCCC;
}
</style>
</head>

<body>
<div class="right">
<p>In my younger and more vulnerable years my
father gave me some advice that I've been turning
over in my mind ever since.</p>
<p>'Whenever you feel like criticizing anyone,' he told
me, just remember that all the people in this world
haven't had the advantages that you've had.'</p>
</div>
</body>
</html>

```

turning over in my mind ever since.

'Whenever you feel like criticizing anyone,' he told me, just remember that all the people in this world haven't had the advantages that you've had.'

Tip: Aligning has no effect if the width is 100%.

Crossbrowser Compatibility Issues

When aligning elements like this, it is always a good idea to predefine margin and padding for the <body> element. This is to avoid visual differences in different browsers.

There is also another problem with IE when using the position property. If a container element (in our case <div class="container">) has a specified width, and the !DOCTYPE declaration is missing, IE will add a 17px margin on the right side. This seems to be space reserved for a scrollbar. Always set the !DOCTYPE declaration when using the position property:

```

<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0
Transitional//EN"
"http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-
transitional.dtd">
<html>
<head>
<style type="text/css">
body
{
margin:0;
padding:0;
}
.container
{
position:relative;
width:100%;
}
.right
{
position:absolute;
right:0px;

```

Note: When aligning using the position property, always include the !DOCTYPE declaration! If missing, it can produce strange results in IE browsers.

```
width:300px;
background-color:#b0e0e6;
}
</style>
</head>
<body>
<div class="container">
<div class="right">
<p><b>Note: </b>When aligning using the position
property, always include the !DOCTYPE declaration! If
missing, it can produce strange results in IE browsers.
</p>
</div>
</div>

</body>
</html>
```