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TROUBLESHOOTING

Here are a few problems that beginners commonly face, along with the pages where you can find solutions to them.

STARTING OUT

The browser shows the markup typed in (not the result page). Check the file extension is `.html` and not `.txt`. [p 30, 32](#)

Bold text, italics, headings, or link text are extending longer than expected. Check you have closed the relevant tag e.g. ``. [p 21, 22](#)

The page I linked to is not found. Check the relative URL. [p 83, 84](#)

IMAGES

Images are not showing up. Check the relative URL. [p 83, 84](#)

Images are looking blurry. Check that you have saved your images in the right format and at the size you want to show them at. [p 109-113](#)

Border images are not showing. This only works with latest browsers. (Also, check the relative URL). [p 319](#)

GIFs that were resized now look grainy or have jagged edges. Check the color space in your image editing program. It should be RGB (not indexed color).

TEXT

Some text flashes up before showing the correct font. You have a Flash Of Unstyled Content. [p 278](#)

When copying text from word processors, lots of extra tags are added to the markup. Copy the text into a plain text editor (to remove formatting) then paste it into your HTML editor. [p 49](#)

The text looks bigger/smaller on some screens. This is usually due to variances in screen resolutions. Also, check the type scale is set for the `<body>` element. [p 377, 275, 276](#)

The font size is wrong in IE when I use ems. See above. [p 276](#)

The font I specified is not showing in some browsers. The computer must have that font installed. [p 269-272](#) If you use `@font-face` it must be in several formats. [p 277, 278](#)

My fonts look jagged on a PC. Some fonts do not anti-alias as well as others on a PC. Try a different typeface or try a thicker version. [p 272](#)

GENERAL CSS

A specified style is not showing. Remember CSS selectors are case sensitive.

Check that your selectors are correct. [p 238](#)

The web developer toolbar can help you find the right selector. [p 348](#)

If the selectors are correct, do you have another selector that applies to the same element later in the CSS? [p 239, 240](#)

CSS varies in some browsers. There are a number of CSS bugs/browser quirks that mean they render the page slightly differently - try searching for the problem and see if it is a known CSS bug/quirk. [p 242](#)

HTML 5

The browser is not applying styles to HTML5 elements. If it is IE, you might need to use the HTML5 shiv / shim. [p 442](#)

Block-level elements are rendering as inline elements. Use `display:block` to tell the browser which HTML5 elements are block-level elements. [p 442](#)

LAYOUT

The design looks bigger/smaller on some screens.

The resolution of a monitor affects how big the items appear on the page. [p 377, 378](#)

Margins above and below a box not showing.

Vertical margins collapse. [p 308, 314](#)

My content does not fit in the containing box/browser window. You can deal with this using the overflow property. [p 306, 316](#)

Boxes look a different size in IE. Some versions of IE use a different box model than all other browsers. Use a DOCTYPE to make old versions of IE behave like other browsers. [p 316](#)

Boxes do not appear centered when using auto for left and right margins.

You may need to use the `text-align` property on the containing element. [p 315](#)

Elements are overlapping.

When you take elements out of normal flow, they can overlap. z-index helps you control which item goes on top. [p 369](#)

Why is the `vertical-align` property not vertically centering my block-level element?

This property is not designed for this purpose. It is used to center *inline* elements on the page. You will find several ways to vertically center block-level elements (depending on their context) if you search on Google.

A background image is not showing on my box.

Does the box you are applying the style to have a defined height and width? [p 303](#)

Does the containing box have an overflow property set to auto? [p 373, 374](#)

My background images do not show when the page is printed. Most browsers do not print background images by default to help save ink. You can adjust this in your print preferences.

There is a gap between the browser window and my content. You may need to set margin and padding on the `<body>` element to 0. [p 313, 314](#)

FLOAT IN LAYOUT

A box is not sitting next to another floated element. Ensure that there is enough space in the containing element for the two to sit side by side. [p 303, 371, 372](#)

Margins and padding are added to the width of the box (except for older versions of IE, which have a different box model). Therefore, the box might be wider than specified in the width property. [p 316](#)

Did you specify a width for the floated element? (See next point.)

My floated element takes up the full width of the browser window (or containing box).

Check that you have specified a width for the floated element. [p 370, 371](#)

The container around my floated elements are one pixel tall. The containing element doesn't know the height of the floated elements inside it. You can either add an element that acts as a clearing box or use the `overflow` property with a value set to `auto`. [p 373, 374](#)

IE added an extra margin to my floated elements. Set the `display` property to `inline`.

If you've come across a problem that you think belongs in this troubleshooting section, please feel welcome to email it to us at: hello@htmlandcssbook.com. We will endeavor to address the most common problems our readers have faced in future editions of this book. Thank you!

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