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# Web Page Design

Lecturer

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## Navigation Bars

The navigation bar is a collection of links; each link leads into another page. So, one of the most important things when you design a web page is the navigation bar. It has to be easy-to-use. Also, we can see the navigation bar in all or most pages of the web site. It could be a horizontal or vertical shape; it depends of the design of the web page. By using CSS you can design HTML menus in good-looking navigation bars.

First, you have to think in a list of links when you want to design your navigation bar. As you have learned before how to use an HTML list elements, now it's time to create the navigation bar from HTML list elements by using CSS techniques.

In the following example we will build the navigation bar from a standard HTML list.

As you know, a navigation bar is basically a list of links, so using the `<ul>` and `<li>` elements make perfect sense:

### Example

```
<html>
<body>
<ul>
<li><a href="#home">Home</a></li>
<li><a href="#news">News</a></li>
<li><a href="#contact">Contact</a></li>
<li><a href="#about">About</a></li>
</ul>

<p>Note: We use href="#" for test links. In a real web site this would be URLs.</p>

</body>
</html>
```

The result is:

### Result

- [Home](#)
- [News](#)
- [Contact](#)
- [About](#)

Note: We use href="#" for test links. In a real web site this would be URLs.

As you see above, it's a list of links. Now let's remove the bullets and set the margins and padding from the list:

#### Example

```
<html>
<head>
<style>
ul
{
list-style-type:none;
margin:0;
padding:0;
}
</style>
</head>
<body>
<ul>
<li><a href="#home">Home</a></li>
<li><a href="#news">News</a></li>
<li><a href="#contact">Contact</a></li>
<li><a href="#about">About</a></li>
</ul>
</body>
</html>
```



Here is the result after modifying the code:



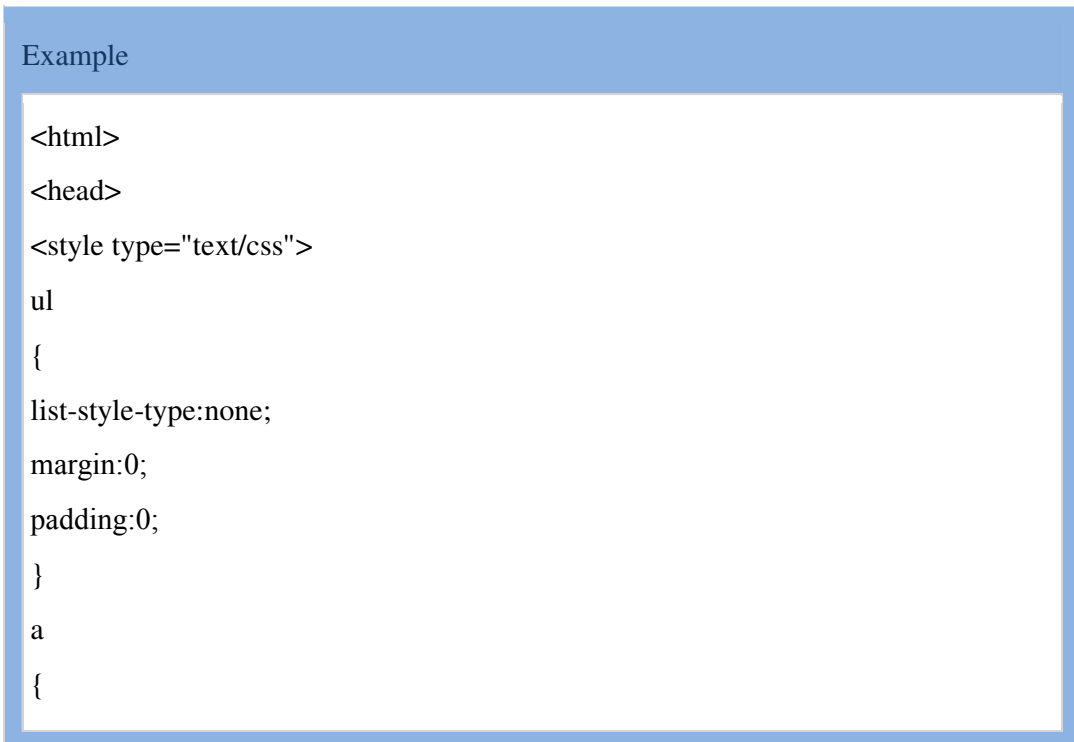
Example explained:

- list-style-type:none - Removes the bullets. A navigation bar does not need list markers
- Setting margins and padding to 0 to remove browser default settings

The code in the example above is the standard code used in both vertical, and horizontal navigation bars.

## **Vertical Navigation Bar**

To build a vertical navigation bar we only need to style the <a> elements, in addition to the code above:



```
display:block;
width:60px;
background-color:#dddddd;
}
</style>
</head>

<body>
<ul>
<li><a href="#home">Home</a></li>
<li><a href="#news">News</a></li>
<li><a href="#contact">Contact</a></li>
<li><a href="#about">About</a></li>
</ul>

<p>A background color is added to the links to show the link area.</p>
<p>Notice that the whole link area is clickable, not just the text.</p>
</body>
</html>
```

Example explained:

- display:block - Displaying the links as block elements makes the whole link area clickable (not just the text), and it allows us to specify the width
- width:60px - Block elements take up the full width available by default. We want to specify a 60 px width

Result

[Home](#)

[News](#)

[Contact](#)

[About](#)

A background color is added to the links to show the link area.

Notice that the whole link area is clickable, not just the text.

## Horizontal Navigation Bar

There are two ways to create a horizontal navigation bar. Using **inline** or **floating** list items. Both methods work fine, but if you want the links to be the same size, you have to use the floating method.

### Inline List Items

One of the ways for building a horizontal navigation bar is to specify the <li> elements as inline. The following example explain how to do that:

#### Example

```
<html>
<head>
<style type="text/css">
ul
{
list-style-type:none;
margin:0;
padding:0;
}
li
{
display:inline;
}
</style>
</head>
```

```
<body>
<ul>
<li><a href="#home">Home</a></li>
<li><a href="#news">News</a></li>
<li><a href="#contact">Contact</a></li>
<li><a href="#about">About</a></li>
</ul>

</body>
</html>
```

The above example gives the following result:

#### Result

[Home](#) [News](#) [Contact](#) [About](#)

Example explained:

- display:inline; - By default, <li> elements are block elements. Here, we remove the line breaks before and after each list item, to display them on one line

#### Floating List Items

In the example above the links have different widths. For all the links to have an equal width, float the <li> elements and specify a width for the <a> elements:

#### Example

```
<!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">
ul
{
list-style-type:none;
margin:0;
padding:0;
overflow:hidden;
}
li
{
float:left;
}
a
{
display:block;
width:60px;
background-color:#dddddd;
}
</style>
</head>

<body>
<ul>
<li><a href="#home">Home</a></li>
<li><a href="#news">News</a></li>
<li><a href="#contact">Contact</a></li>
<li><a href="#about">About</a></li>
</ul>

<p><b>Note:</b> If a !DOCTYPE is not specified, floating items can produce
unexpected results.</p>
```



<p>A background color is added to the links to show the link area. The whole link area is clickable, not just the text.</p>

<p><b>Note:</b> overflow:hidden is added to the ul element to prevent li elements from going outside of the list.</p>

</body>

</html>

The result is:

Result

[Home](#) [News](#) [Contact](#) [About](#)

Example explained:

- float:left - use float to get block elements to slide next to each other
- display:block - Displaying the links as block elements makes the whole link area clickable (not just the text), and it allows us to specify the width
- width:60px - Since block elements take up the full width available, they cannot float next to each other. We specify the width of the links to 60px

### Summary:

My dear students, here you are having a good understanding of how to design a navigation bar. I do advice you to expand your knowledge by developing these understandings. (ie. Think about background image!!!).

### Image Gallery

Now, it's become easy to design many things that you have noticed in web sites that you visited. One of these is an image gallery.

Think about <div> element. It's a master key for showing flexible and professional web page. No more tables for design a page, here you have the magic tool <div> for designing your web page.

Dear student,

Will leave you with the following example for create simple image gallery:

#### Example

```
<html>
<head>
<style type="text/css">
div.img
{
margin: 2px;
border: 1px solid #0000ff;
height: auto;
width: auto;
float: left;
text-align: center;
}
div.img img
{
display: inline;
margin: 3px;
border: 1px solid #ffffff;
}
div.img a:hover img {border: 1px solid #0000ff;}
div.desc
{
text-align: center;
font-weight: normal;
width: 120px;
margin: 2px;
```

```
}  
</style>  
</head>  
<body>  
  
<div class="img">  
  <a target="_blank" href="klematis_big.htm"></a>  
  <div class="desc">Add a description of the image here</div>  
</div>  
  
<div class="img">  
  <a target="_blank" href="klematis2_big.htm"></a>  
  <div class="desc">Add a description of the image here</div>  
</div>  
  
<div class="img">  
  <a target="_blank" href="klematis3_big.htm"></a>  
  <div class="desc">Add a description of the image here</div>  
</div>  
  
<div class="img">  
  <a target="_blank" href="klematis4_big.htm"></a>  
  <div class="desc">Add a description of the image here</div>  
</div>  
  
</body>  
</html>
```

Note: Try to find your own images and put them at the same place of your page or you can get the images of example above from the w3schools web site.

