

How to Center a `<div>`

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This article contains information on how to center a `<code>` using CSS, horizontally and vertically, within HTML. The sole purpose of this article is to annoy [Venen Jean](#), so have fun with this little payback.

Horizontally Aligning

Horizontally aligning a `<div>` is easier than vertically aligning a `<div>`.

Auto Margin

A margin sets the space outside the selected element. Setting the element's left and right `margin` to `auto`, automatically makes it centered horizontally.

Your code should contain `margin-left: auto;` and `margin-right: auto;`, and its `display` must be set to `block` using `display: block;`. [\[1\]](#)

See example: <https://codepen.io/alex-toucan/pen/bGXqrZY>

Flexbox

You can also use Flexbox to center your `<div>` using `display: flex;` and `justify-content: center;`. [\[4\]](#)

See example: <https://codepen.io/alex-toucan/pen/RwXpQJ>

Text Center

To center not necessarily a `<div>`, but any text, use `text-align: center;` for its property. [\[1\]](#)

See example: <https://codepen.io/alex-toucan/pen/bGXqLLx>

Vertically Aligning

Vertically aligning a `<div>` is harder than horizontally aligning.

Using Position and Transform

Combining `position: relative;` for your parent container, and using `position: absolute;`, `top: 50%;`, and `transform: translateY(-50%);` for your child container. This can align the child's container in a vertical direction. [\[2\]](#)

See example: <https://codepen.io/alex-toucan/pen/JjgWpgN>

Padding

Top and bottom `padding` can vertically center text. [1]

See example: <https://codepen.io/alex-toucan/pen/JjgWpgN>

Line Height

For `line-height` to vertically align text, it must be the same height as the container. If your text is above one line, you can use `line-height: 1.5;` on the `<p>` tag. [1]

See example: <https://codepen.io/alex-toucan/pen/JjgWpgN>

Aligning in Both Directions

This section will show how a `<div>` can be both horizontally and vertically aligned.

Flexbox

You can use Flexbox to center your `<div>` using `display: flex;`, `justify-content: center;`, `align-items: center;`, and setting a height on a parent container. [4]

See example: <https://codepen.io/alex-toucan/pen/OJKpQww>

Using Position and Transform

Combining `position: relative;` for your parent container, and using `position: absolute;`, `top: 50%;`, `left: 50%;`, and `transform: translate(-50%, -50%);` for your child container. This can align the child's container in all directions. [\[2\]](#)

See example: <https://codepen.io/alex-toucan/pen/VwopOgM>

Padding

Top and bottom `padding`, combined with `text-align: center;`, can horizontally and vertically align text. [\[1\]](#)

See example: <https://codepen.io/alex-toucan/pen/bGXqLmQ>

Line Height

For `line-height` to vertically align text, it must be the same height as the container. You can also combine this with `text-align: center;`. If your text is above one line, you can use `line-height: 1.5;` on the `<p>` tag. [\[1\]](#)

See example: <https://codepen.io/alex-toucan/pen/wvVJyRO>

Work Cited

- [1] W3Schools. “CSS Layout - Horizontal & Vertical Align.” *W3Schools*, www.w3schools.com/css/css_align.asp. Accessed 14 Oct. 2024.
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- [3] Abdu. “How Can I Vertically Align Elements in a Div?” *Stack Overflow*, 17 Sept. 2008, stackoverflow.com/questions/79461/how-can-i-vertically-align-elements-in-a-div. Accessed 14 Oct. 2024.
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