



CSS Properties

This appendix is a reference of the main CSS properties that you will be using to control the appearance of your documents.

For each property covered you will first see a very brief description of the property and then an example of its usage. Then the tables on the left show the possible values the property can take, along with the first versions of IE and Netscape to support these properties. The table on the right indicates whether the property can be inherited, what the default value for the property is, and which elements it applies to.

At the end of the appendix are units of measurement.

While Netscape supports the `inherit` value of many properties, if it is unable to set the property to some other value in the first place, then this value is of little use.

Note that the tables indicating which browser version supported a value are based on browsers on the Windows platform. Internet Explorer 5 on a Mac has notably better support for many of the properties than its Windows counterparts.

Font Properties

The font properties allow you to change the appearance of a typeface.

font

Allows you to set several font properties at the same time, separated by spaces. You can specify `font-size`, `line-height`, `font-family`, `font-style`, `font-variant`, and `font-weight` in this one property.

```
font {color:#ff0000; arial, verdana, sans-serif; 12pt;}
```

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Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	Yes
[font-family]	3	4	Default	n/a
[font-size]	3	4	Applies to	All elements
[font-style]	3	4		
[font-variant]	4	6		
[font-weight]	3	4		
[line-height]	3	4		
inherit	-	6		

font-family

Allows you to specify the typefaces you want to use. Can take multiple values separated by commas, starting with your first preference, then your second choice, and ending with a generic font-family (serif, sans-serif, cursive, fantasy or monospace).

```
p {font-family:arial, verdana, sans-serif;}
```

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	Yes
[generic family]	3	4	Default	Set by browser
[specific family]	3	4	Applies to	All elements
inherit	-	6		

font-size

Allows you to specify a size of font. The font-size property has its own specific values:

- Absolutes sizes:** xx-small, x-small, small, medium, large, x-large, xx-large
- Relative sizes:** larger, smaller
- Percentage:** Percentage of the parent font
- Length:** A unit of measurement (as described at end of the appendix)

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Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	Yes
[absolute size]	3	4	Default	medium
[relative size]	4	4	Applies to	All elements
[percent]	3	4		
[length]	3	4		
inherit	-	6		

font-size-adjust

Allows you to adjust the aspect value of a font, which is the ratio between the height of a lowercase letter *x* in the font, and the height of the font.

```
p {font-size-adjust:0.5;}
```

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	Yes
[number]	-	-	Default	Specific to font
none	-	-	Applies to	All elements
inherit	-	6		

font-stretch

Allows you to specify the width of the letters in a font (not the size between them).

- Relative values:** normal, wider, narrower
- Fixed values:** ultra-condensed, extra-condensed, condensed, semi-condensed, semi-expanded, expanded, extra-expanded, ultra-expanded

```
p {font-family:courier; font-stretch:semi-condensed;}
```

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	Yes
[relative]	-	-	Default	Specific to font
[fixed]	-	-	Applies to	All elements
inherit	-	6		

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font-style

Applies styling to a font. If the specified version of the font is available it will be used; otherwise the browser will render it.

```
p {font-style:italic;}
```

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	Yes
normal	3	4	Default	normal
italic	3	4	Applies to	All elements
oblique	4	6		
inherit	-	6		

font-variant

Creates capital letters that are the same size of normal lowercase letters.

```
p {font-variant:small-caps;}
```

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	Yes
normal	4	6	Default	normal
small-caps	4	6	Applies to	All elements
inherit	-	6		

font-weight

Specifies the thickness of the text—its “boldness.”

- Absolute values:** normal, bold
- Relative values:** bolder, lighter
- Numeric value:** Between 0 and 100

```
p {font-weight:bold;}
```

CSS Properties

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	Yes
[absolute]	3	4	Default	normal
[relative]	4	6	Applies to	All elements
[number 1–100]	4	6		
inherit	-	6		

Text Properties

Text properties change the appearance and layout of text in general (as opposed to the font).

letter-spacing

Specifies the distance between letters as a unit of length.

```
p {letter-spacing:1em;}
```

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	Yes
[length]	4	6	Default	normal
normal	4	6	Applies to	All elements
inherit	-	6		

text-align

Specifies whether text is aligned left, right, center, or justified.

```
p {text-align:center}
```

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	Yes
left	3	4	Default	Depends on user agent and element (usually left except for <th> elements, which are center)
right	3	4	Applies to	All elements
center	3	4		
justify	4	4		
inherit	-	6		

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text-decoration

Specifies whether text should have an underline, overline, line-through, or blink appearance.

```
p {text-decoration:underline;}
```

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	No
none	3	4	Default	none
underline	3	4	Applies to	All elements
overline	4	6		
line-through	3	4		
blink	-	4		
inherit	-	6		

text-indent

Specifies the indentation in length or as a percentage of the parent element's width.

```
p {text-indent:3em;}
```

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	Yes
[length]	4	4	Default	zero
[percentage]	4	4	Applies to	Block elements
inherit	-	6		

text-shadow

Creates a drop shadow for the text. It should take three lengths; the first two specify X and Y coordinates for the offset of the drop shadow, while the third specifies a blur effect. This is then followed by a color, which can be a name or a hex value.

```
.dropShadow {text-shadow: 0.3em 0.3em 0.5em black}
```

CSS Properties

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	No
[shadow effects]	-	-	Default	none
none	-	-	Applies to	All elements
inherit	-	6		

text-transform

Specifies capitalization of text in an element

- none:** Removes inherited settings
- uppercase:** All characters are uppercase
- lowercase:** All characters are lowercase
- capitalize:** First letter of each word is capitalized

```
p {text-transform:uppercase;}
```

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	Yes
none	4	4	Default	none
uppercase	4	4	Applies to	All elements
lowercase	4	4		
capitalize	4	4		
inherit	-	6		

white-space

Indicates how whitespace should be dealt with:

- normal:** Whitespace should be collapsed
- pre:** Whitespace should be preserved
- nowrap:** Text should not be broken to a new line except with `
` element

```
p {white-space:pre;}
```

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Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	Yes
normal	5.5	4	Default	normal
pre	5.5	4	Applies to	Block elements
nowrap	5.5	6		
inherit	-	6		

word-spacing

Specifies the gap between words:

```
p {word-spacing:2em;}
```

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	Yes
normal	6	6	Default	normal
[length]	6	6	Applies to	All elements
inherit	-	6		

Color and Background Properties

The following properties allow you to change the colors and backgrounds of both the page and other boxes.

background

Shorthand for specifying background properties for `color`, `url`, `repeat`, `scroll`, and `position`; separated by a space. By default the background is transparent.

```
body {background: #efefef url(images/background.gif) }
```

CSS Properties

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	No
[background-attachment]	4	6	Default	Not defined (by default background is transparent)
[background-color]	3	4	Applies to	All elements
[background-image]	3	4		
[background-position]	4	6		
[background-repeat]	3	4		
inherit	-	6		

background-attachment

Specifies whether a background image should be fixed in one position or scroll along the page:

```
body {background-attachment:fixed; background-image: url(images/background.gif);}
```

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	No
fixed	4	6	Default	scroll
scroll	4	6	Applies to	All elements
inherit	4	6		

background-color

Sets the color of the background. This can be a single color or two colors blended together. Colors can be specified as a color name, hex value, or RGB value. By default the box will be transparent.

```
body {background-color:#efefef;}
```

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	No
[color]	4	4	Default	transparent
transparent	4	4	Applies to	All elements
inherit	-	6		

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background-image

Specifies an image to be used as a background, which by default will be tiled. Value is a URL for the image.

```
body {background-image: url(images/background.gif);}
```

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	No
[url]	4	4	Default	none
none	4	4	Applies to	All elements
inherit	-	6		

background-position

Specifies where a background image should be placed in the page, from the top-left corner. Values can be an absolute distance, percentage, or one of the keywords. If only one value is given, it is taken to be horizontal.

- Keywords available are: top, bottom, left, right, center

```
body {background-position:center; background-image: url(images  
/background.gif);}
```

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	No
[length - x y]	4	6	Default	top, left
[percentage - x% y%]	4	6	Applies to	Block level elements
top	4	6		
left	4	6		
bottom	4	6		
right	4	6		
center	4	6		
inherit	-	6		

background-positionX

Position of a background image to run horizontally across page. Values are the same as for background-position (default: top).

background-positionY

Position of a background image to run vertically down page. Values are same as for `background-position` (default: `left`).

Border properties

The border properties allow you to control the appearance and size of a border around any box.

border (border-bottom, border-left, border-top, border-right)

Shorthand for specifying `border-style`, `border-width`, and `border-color` properties

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	No
<code><border-style></code>	4	6	Default	<code>none, medium, none</code>
<code><border-width></code>	4	6	Applies to	All elements
<code><border-color></code>	4	6		
<code>inherit</code>	-	6		

border-style (border-bottom-style, border-left-style, border-top-style, border-right-style)

Specifies the style of line that should surround a block box.

```
div.page {border-style:solid;}
```

Note that Netscape did not support properties for individual sides until version 6.

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	No
<code>none</code>	4	4	Default	<code>none</code>
<code>dotted</code>	5.5	6	Applies to	All elements
<code>dashed</code>	5.5	6		
<code>solid</code>	4	4		
<code>double</code>	4	4		
<code>groove</code>	4	4		
<code>ridge</code>	4	4		

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Value	IE	Netscape
inset	4	4
outset	4	4
hidden	-	-
inherit	-	6

border-width (border-bottom-width, border-left-width, border-top-width, border-right-width)

Specifies the width of a border line; can be a width or a keyword.

```
div.page {border-width:2px;}
```

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	No
[length]	4	4	Default	medium
thin	4	4	Applies to	All elements
medium	4	4		
thick	4	4		
inherit	-	6		

border-color (border-bottom-color, border-left-color, border-top-color, border-right-color)

Specifies the color of a border; values can be a color name, hex code, or RGB value.

```
table {border-color:#000000;}
```

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	No
[color value]	4	4	Default	none
inherit	-	6	Applies to	All elements

Dimensions

The dimensions properties allow you to specify the size that boxes should be.

height

Specifies the vertical height of a block elements; can scale the element.

```
table {height:400px;}
```

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	No
auto	4	6	Default	auto
[length]	4	6	Applies to	Block level elements
[percentage]	4	-		
inherit	-	6		

width

Specifies the horizontal width of an element; can scale the element.

```
td {width:150px;}
```

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	No
auto	4	4	Default	auto
[length]	4	4	Applies to	Block level elements
[percentage]	4	4		
inherit	-	6		

line-height

Specifies the height of a line of text, and therefore the leading (space between multiple lines of text).

```
p {line-height:18px;}
```

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Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	Yes
normal	3	4	Default	Depends on browser
[number]	4	4	Applies to	All elements
[length]	3	4		
[percentage]	3	4		
inherit	-	6		

max-height

Specifies the maximum height of a block level element (same values as for height).

```
td {max-height:200px;}
```

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	No
auto	-	-	Default	auto
[length]	-	-	Applies to	Block level elements
[percentage]	-	-		
inherit	-	6		

max-width

Specifies the maximum width of a block level element (same values as for width).

```
td {max-width:400px;}
```

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	No
auto	-	-	Default	auto
[length]	-	-	Applies to	Block elements
[percentage]	-	-		
inherit	-	6		

min-height

Specifies the maximum height of a block level element (same values as for height).

```
td {min-height:100px;}
```

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	No
auto	-	-	Default	auto
[length]	-	-	Applies to	Block level elements
[percentage]	-	-		
inherit	-	6		

min-width

Specifies the minimum width of a block level element (same values as for width).

```
td {min-width:200px;}
```

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	No
auto	-	-	Default	auto
[length]	-	-	Applies to	Block elements
[percentage]	-	-		
inherit	-	6		

Margin Properties

Margin properties allow you to specify a margin around a box and therefore create a gap between elements' borders.

margin (margin-bottom, margin-left, margin-top, margin-right)

Specifies the width of a margin around a box.

```
p {margin:15px;}
```

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Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	No
auto	3	4	Default	zero
[length]	3	4	Applies to	All elements
[percentage – relative to parent element]	3	4		
inherit	-	6		

Padding Properties

Padding properties set the distance between the border of an element and its content. They are important for adding whitespace to documents (in particular table cells).

padding (padding-bottom, padding-left, padding-right, padding-top)

Specifies the distance between an element's border and its content.

```
td {padding:20px;}
```

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	No
auto	4	4	Default	zero
[length]	4	4	Applies to	All elements
[percentage – relative to parent element]	4	4		
inherit	-	6		

List Properties

List properties affect the presentation of bulleted, numbered, and definition lists.

list-style

Shorthand allowing you to specify `list-style-position` and `list-style-type`.

```
ul {list-style: inside disc}
```

CSS Properties

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	Yes
<position>	4	6	Default	Depends on browser
<type>	4	4	Applies to	List elements
<image>	4	6		
inherit	-	6		

list-style-position

Specifies whether the marker should be placed with each item of a list or to the left of them.

```
ul {list-style-position:inside;}
```

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	Yes
inside	4	6	Default	outside
outside	4	6	Applies to	List elements
inherit	-	6		

list-style-type

Indicates the type of bullet or numbering that a bullet should use.

```
ul {list-style-type:circle;}
```

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	Yes
None	4	4	Default	disc
disc (default)	4	4	Applies to	List elements
Circle	4	4		
square	4	4		
decimal	4	4		
decimal-leading-zero	-	-		
lower-alpha	4	4		
upper-alpha	4	4		
lower-roman	4	4		
upper-roman	4	4		

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Additional numbered list styles are available in CSS, but unfortunately they are not supported in IE 6 or Netscape 7.

hebrew	Traditional Hebrew numbering
georgian	Traditional Georgian numbering (an, ban, gan, . . . , he, tan, in, in-an, . . .)
armenian	Traditional Armenian numbering
ckj-ideographic	Plain ideographic numbers
hiragana	(a, i, u, e, o, ka, ki, . . .)
katakana	(A, I, U, E, O, KA, KI, . . .)
hiragana-iroha	(i, ro, ha, ni, ho, he, to, . . .)
katakana-iroha	(I, RO, HA, NI, HO, HE, TO, . . .)

marker-offset

Specifies the space between a list item and its marker.

```
ol {marker-offset:2em;}
```

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	No
[length]	-	-	Default	auto
auto	-	-	Applies to	Marker elements
inherit	-	6		

Positioning Properties

Positioning properties allow you to use CSS for positioning boxes on the page.

position

Specifies the positioning schema that should be used for an element. When an element is positioned you also need to use the box-offset properties covered next (*top*, *left*, *bottom* and *right*). Note that you should not use *top* and *bottom* or *left* and *right* together (if you do *top* and *left* take priority).

- ❑ *absolute* can be fixed on the canvas in a specific position from its containing element (which is another absolutely positioned element); it will also move when the user scrolls the page.

CSS Properties

- `static` will fix it on the page in the same place and keep it there even when the user scrolls.
- `relative` will be placed offset in relation to its normal position.
- `fixed` will fix it on the background of the page and not move when the user scrolls.

```
p.article{position:absolute; top:10px; left:20px;
```

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	No
absolute	4	4	Default	static
relative	4	4	Applies to	All elements
static	4	4		
fixed	-	6		
inherit	-	6		

Top

Sets the vertical position of an element from the top of the window or containing element.

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	No
auto	4	-	Default	auto
[length]	4	6	Applies to	Positioned elements
[percentage – relative to parent’s height]	4	-		
inherit	-	6		

Left

Sets the horizontal position of an element from the left of the window or containing element.

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	No
auto	4	-	Default	auto
[length]	4	6	Applies to	Positioned elements
[percentage – relative to parent’s width]	4	-		
inherit	-	6		

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bottom

Sets the vertical position of an element from the bottom of the window or containing element.

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	No
auto	5	-	Default	auto
[length]	5	-	Applies to	Positioned elements
[percentage – relative to parent’s height]	5	-		
inherit	-	6		

right

Sets the horizontal position of an element from the window or containing element.

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	No
auto	5	-	Default	auto
[length]	5	-	Applies to	Positioned elements
[percentage – relative to parent’s width]	5	-		
inherit	-	6		

vertical-align

Sets the vertical positioning of an inline element:

- `baseline` aligns element with base of parent
- `middle` aligns midpoint of element with half the height of parent
- `sub` makes element subscript
- `super` makes element superscript
- `text-top` aligns element with top of parent element’s font
- `text-bottom` aligns element with the bottom of parent element’s font
- `top` aligns top of element with top of tallest element on current line
- `bottom` aligns element with bottom of lowest element on the current line

```
span.superscript {vertical-align:superscript;}
```

CSS Properties

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	No
baseline	4	4	Default	baseline
middle	4	4	Applies to	Inline elements
sub	4	6		
super	4	6		
text-top	4	4		
text-bottom	4	4		
top	4	4		
bottom	4	4		
[percentage relative to line height]	-	6		
[length]	-	-		
inherit	4	6		

z-index

Controls which overlapping element appears to be on top; works for absolutely positioned elements only. Positive and negative numbers are permitted.

```
p {position:absolute; top:10px; left:20px; z-index:3;}
```

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	No
auto	4	-	Default	Depends on position of element in XHTML source document
[number]	4	4	Applies to	Positioned elements
inherit	-	6		

clip

Controls which part of an element is visible. Parts outside the clip are not visible. If value is `rect()`, takes following form:

```
rect([top] [right] [bottom] [left])
```

```
rect(25 100 100 25)
```

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Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	No
auto	4	-	Default	auto
rect	4	6	Applies to	Block elements
inherit	-	6		

overflow

Specifies how a container element will display content that is too large for its containing element.

```
p {width:200px; height:200px; overflow:scroll;}
```

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	No
auto	4	-	Default	visible
hidden	4	-	Applies to	Block elements
visible	4	-		
scroll	4	-		
inherit	-	6		

overflow-x

Same as `overflow`, but only for the horizontal x-axis. First supported in IE 5.

overflow-y

Same as `overflow`, but only for the vertical y-axis. First supported in IE 5.

Outline Properties

Outlines act like borders, but do not take up any space—they sit on top of the canvas.

Outline (outline-color, outline-style, outline-width)

Shortcut for the `outline-color`, `outline-style`, and `outline-width` properties:

```
outline {solid #ff0000 2px}
```

CSS Properties

Note that `outline-color`, `outline-style`, and `outline-width` take the same values as `border-color`, `border-style`, and `border-width`. They are not covered individually because they are not supported yet.

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	No
<code><outline-color></code>	-	-	Default	none
<code><outline-style></code>	-	-	Applies to	All elements
<code><outline-width></code>	-	-		

Table Properties

Table properties allow you to affect the style of tables, rows, and cells.

border-collapse

Specifies the border model that the table should use (whether adjacent borders should be collapsed into one value or kept separate).

```
table {border-collapse:separate;}
```

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	Yes
<code>collapse</code>	5	-	Default	<code>collapse</code>
<code>separate</code>	5	-	Applies to	Table and inline elements
<code>inherit</code>	-	6		

border-spacing

Specifies the distance between adjacent cells borders.

```
table {border-spacing:2px;}
```

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	Yes
<code>[length]</code>	-	-	Default	0
<code>inherit</code>	-	6	Applies to	Table and inline elements

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caption-side

Indicates which side of a table a caption should be placed on.

```
caption {caption-side:bottom;}
```

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	Yes
top	-	-	Default	top
left	-	-	Applies to	<caption> elements in <table> elements
bottom	-	6		
right	-	-		
inherit	-	6		

empty-cells

Specifies whether borders should be displayed if a cell is empty.

```
td, th {empty-cells:hide;}
```

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	Yes
show	5	6	Default	show
hide	5	6	Applies to	Table cell elements
inherit	-	6		

table-layout

Specifies how the browser should calculate the layout of a table; can affect the speed of rendering a large or graphics-intensive table.

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	No
auto	5	-	Default	auto
fixed	5	-	Applies to	Table and inline elements
inherit	-	6		

Classification Properties

Classification properties affect how the boxes in the box model are rendered.

clear

Forces elements, which would normally wrap around an aligned element, to be displayed below it. Value indicates which side may not touch an aligned element.

```
p {clear:left;}
```

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	No
none	4	4	Default	none
both	4	4	Applies to	All elements
left	4	4		
right	4	4		
inherit	-	6		

display

Specifies if and how an element is rendered if at all. If set to `none` the element is not rendered and it does not take up any space. Can force an inline element to be displayed as a block or vice versa.

```
span.important {display:block;}
```

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	Yes
none	4	4	Default	inline
inline	5	4	Applies to	All elements
block	5	4		
list-item	5	4		
inherit	-	6		

Other properties are either not supported or not required for XHTML.

While the default value of this property is `inline`, browsers tend to treat the element depending on its inherent display type. Block level elements, such as headings and paragraphs, get treated as if the default were `block`, while inline elements such as `<i>`, ``, or `` get treated as `inline`.

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float

Subsequent elements should be wrapped to the left or right of the element, rather than below.

```
img.featuredeItem {float:left;}
```

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	No
none	4	4	Default	none
left	4	4	Applies to	All elements
right	4	4		
inherit	-	6		

visibility

Specifies whether an element should be displayed or hidden. Even if hidden, elements take up space on page, but are transparent.

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	No
visible	4	-	Default	inherit
show	-	4	Applies to	All elements
hidden	4	-		
hide	-	4		
collapse	-	-		
inherit	4	4		

Internationalization Properties

Internationalization properties affect how text is rendered in different languages.

direction

Specifies the direction of text from left to right or right to left. This should be used in association with the `unicode-bidi` property.

```
td.word{direction:rtl; unicode-bidi:bidi-override;}
```

CSS Properties

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	Yes
ltr	5	6	Default	ltr
rtl	5	6	Applies to	All elements
inherit	5	6		

unicode-bidi

The `unicode-bidi` property allows you to override Unicode's built-in directionality settings for languages.

```
td.word{unicode-bidi:bidi-override; direction:rtl; }
```

Value	IE	Netscape	Inherited	No
normal	5	-	Default	normal
embed	5	-	Applies to	All elements
bidi-override	5	-		
inherit	-	6		

Lengths

Following are the unit measurement for lengths that can be used in CSS.

Absolute Lengths

Unit	IE	Netscape
cm	3	4
in	3	4
mm	3	4
pc	3	4
pt	3	4

Appendix C

Relative Lengths

Unit	IE	Netscape
em	4	4
ex	4	4
px	3	4