

Chapter 25: Tables

Section 25.1: table-layout

The `table-layout` property changes the algorithm that is used for the layout of a table.

Below an example of two tables both set to `width: 150px`:

The image shows two tables side-by-side. The table on the left has a width of 210px, which is wider than the specified 150px, but its content fits within the columns. The table on the right has a width of 150px, and its content overflows to the right of the table border.

The table on the left has `table-layout: auto` while the one on the right has `table-layout: fixed`. The former is wider than the specified width (210px instead of 150px) but the contents fit. The latter takes the defined width of 150px, regardless if the contents overflow or not.

Value	Description
<code>auto</code>	This is the default value. It defines the layout of the table to be determined by the contents of its' cells.
<code>fixed</code>	This value sets the table layout to be determined by the width property provided to the table. If the content of a cell exceeds this width, the cell will not resize but instead, let the content overflow.

Section 25.2: empty-cells

The `empty-cells` property determines if cells with no content should be displayed or not. This has no effect unless `border-collapse` is set to `separate`.

Below an example with two tables with different values set to the `empty-cells` property:

The image shows two tables side-by-side. The table on the left has `empty-cells: show`, so empty cells are visible as white boxes. The table on the right has `empty-cells: hide`, so empty cells are not visible, and the content of the other cells is shifted to fill the gaps.

The table on the left has `empty-cells: show` while the one on the right has `empty-cells: hide`. The former does display the empty cells whereas the latter does not.

Value	Description
<code>show</code>	This is the default value. It shows cells even if they are empty.
<code>hide</code>	This value hides a cell altogether if there are no contents in the cell.

More Information:

- <https://www.w3.org/TR/CSS21/tables.html#empty-cells>
- <https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/CSS/empty-cells>
- <http://codepen.io/SitePoint/pen/yfhtq>
- <https://css-tricks.com/almanac/properties/e/empty-cells/>

Section 25.3: border-collapse

The `border-collapse` property determines if a tables' borders should be separated or merged.

Below an example of two tables with different values to the `border-collapse` property:

First name	Last name	Homeworld
Luke	Skywalker	Tatooine
Leia	Organa	Alderaan

First name	Last name	Homeworld
Luke	Skywalker	Tatooine
Leia	Organa	Alderaan

The table on the left has `border-collapse: separate` while the one on the right has `border-collapse: collapse`.

Value

Description

`separate` This is the default value. It makes the borders of the table separate from each other.

`collapse` This value sets the borders of the table to merge together, rather than being distinct.

Section 25.4: border-spacing

The `border-spacing` property determines the spacing between cells. This has no effect unless `border-collapse` is set to `separate`.

Below an example of two tables with different values to the `border-spacing` property:

First name	Last name	Homeworld
Luke	Skywalker	Tatooine
Leia	Organa	Alderaan

First name	Last name	Homeworld
Luke	Skywalker	Tatooine
Leia	Organa	Alderaan

The table on the left has `border-spacing: 2px` (default) while the one on the right has `border-spacing: 8px`.

Value

Description

`<length>` This is the default behavior, though the exact value can vary between browsers.

`<length> <length>` This syntax allows specifying separate horizontal and vertical values respectively.

Section 25.5: caption-side

The `caption-side` property determines the vertical positioning of the `<caption>` element within a table. This has no effect if such element does not exist.

Below an example with two tables with different values set to the `caption-side` property:

First name	Last name	Homeworld
Luke	Skywalker	Tatooine
Leia	Organa	Alderaan

First name	Last name	Homeworld
Luke	Skywalker	Tatooine
Leia	Organa	Alderaan

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The table on the left has `caption-side: top` while the one on the right has `caption-side: bottom`.

Value

Description

`top` This is the default value. It places the caption above the table.

`bottom` This value places the caption below the table.