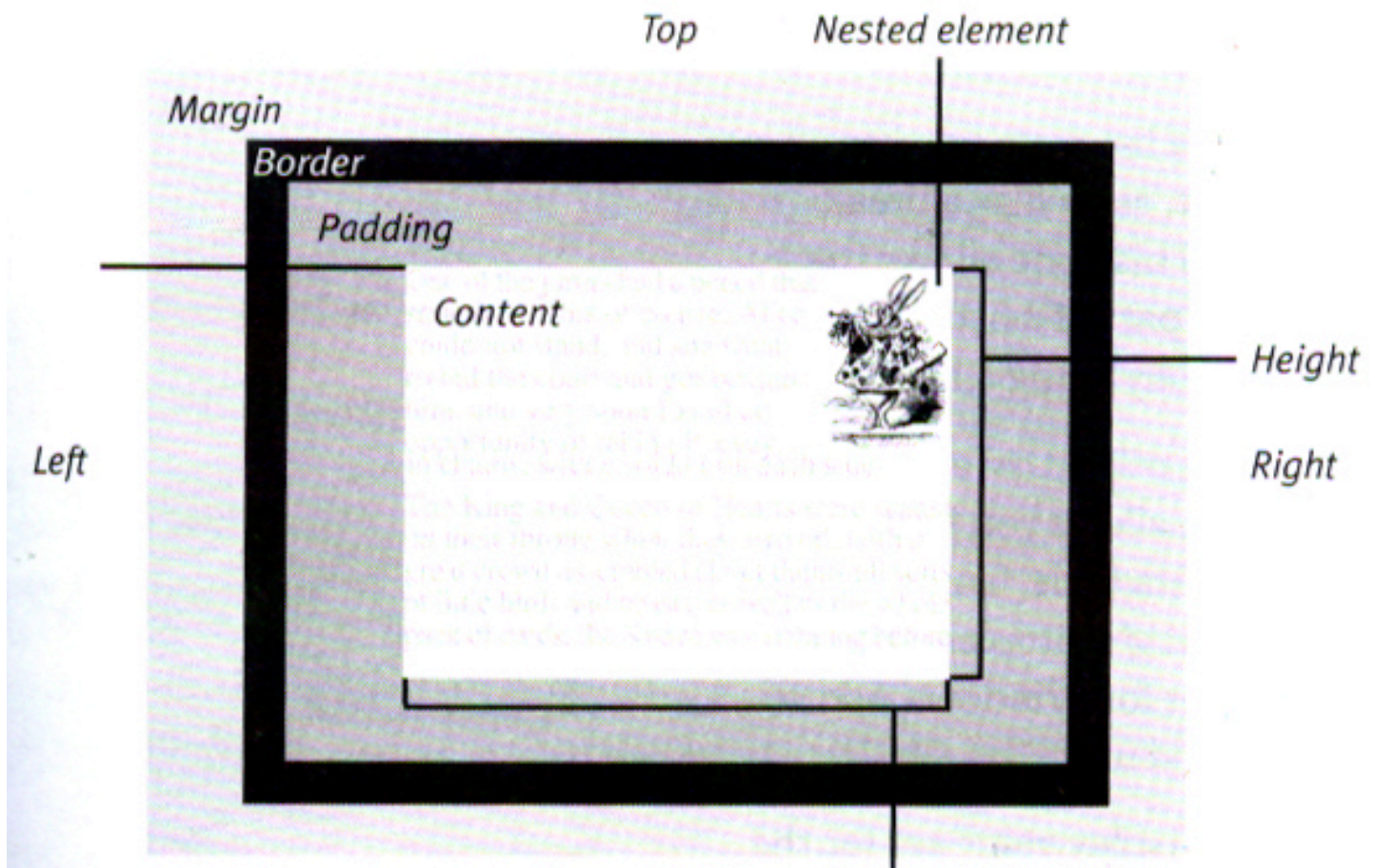


Using CSS To Create A Layered Effect

Now that you are comfortable with using CSS to decorate your page elements, we can look at more advanced design. We learned in the last lesson that every tag is essentially a box. By placing boxes inside of boxes we can create a layered effect that is more appealing to the eye. Before we get to the layered effect, we must first understand that each element can be treated as a box.

Part of the Box

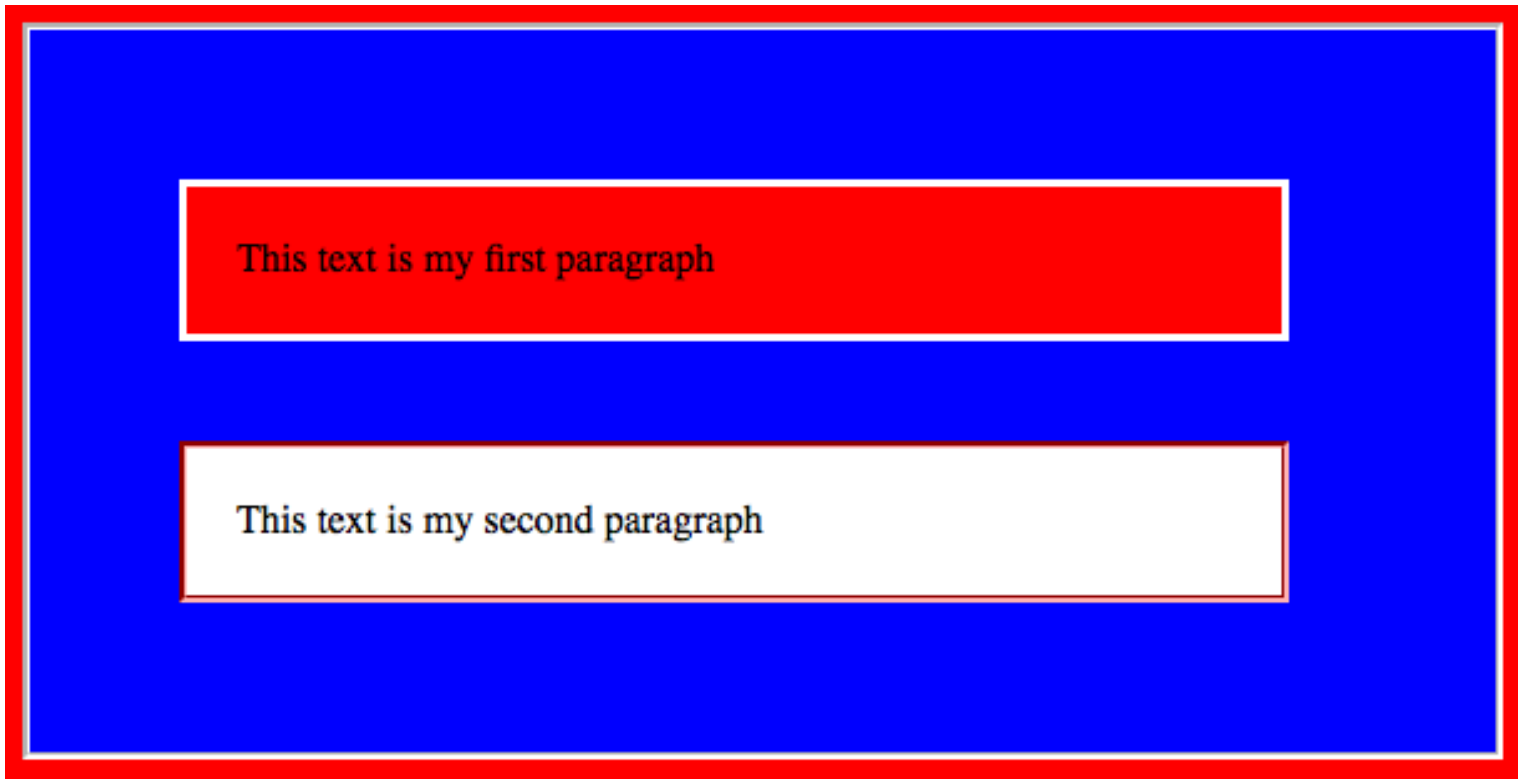
Looking at the illustration below, you can see the various parts that make up each element box.



What you'll notice from the diagram above is that there are two new things you can use when creating CSS boxes.

- Margin – the space kept between the outside of the border and any other object.
- Width and Height – can be specified in your CSS using pixel values.

Now, to achieve a layered CSS effect:



So how do you go about creating this? Layering is made possible by using the <div> tag.

The DIV Tag

The <div> tag is a special tag that is used to create a box around other tags.

Step 1 – Create a <div> tag anywhere in your body section and decorate it with a border, background color and padding as we learned in the last lesson.

```
<div style="background-color:blue; border-style:groove; border-color:white; padding:20px;" align="center">
```

```
</div>
```

*****Note***** Don't be alarmed if nothing shows up at this point. The Div will not show up until you place something in side of it.

Step 2 – Place your paragraph tags inside of the div

```
<div style="background-color:blue; border-style:groove; border-color:white;
padding:20px;" align="center">

    <p style="background-color:red; border-style:solid; border-color:white;
padding:20px; width:400px; margin:40px;"> This text is my first paragraph
</p>

    <p style="background-color:white; border-style:groove; border-color:red;
padding:20px; width:400px; margin:40px;"> This text is my second paragraph
</p>

</div>
```

*****Note***** I've used indenting here to make it easier to see where the div container opens and closes. This is common practice when working with div tags so that we can see which containers are inside of others.

Step 3 – Modify your background color to another color to make the div stand out.

```
<body style="background-color:red;">

<div style="background-color:blue; border-style:groove; border-color:white;
padding:20px;" align="center">

    <p style="background-color:red; border-style:solid; border-color:white;
padding:20px; width:400px; margin:40px;"> This text is my first paragraph
</p>

    <p style="background-color:white; border-style:groove; border-color:red;
padding:20px; width:400px; margin:40px;"> This text is my second paragraph
</p>

</div>
```

That's it! Your layered effect is complete.

A few things to note:

- a) In order to align an entire box, you must place a div around it and then place the align attribute in the surrounding <div>.
- b) Margins are especially useful when you need to create space outside of the border of your box. They are very useful in making your page feel less cluttered.
- c) Layered design works best when you choose 3 to 5 colors and use them in your backgrounds borders and font colors. You get a cool effect when you alternate the colours of the borders and backgrounds.
- d) You can place any tag you want inside of a div tag including: headings, paragraphs, strong, emphasis, horizontal rules, etc.