CSS Float and Clear

The CSS `float` property specifies how an element should float. The CSS `clear` property specifies what elements can float beside the cleared element and on which side. More or less, we can see the CSS float as the complement of CSS clear.

The Float Property

The `float` property is used for positioning and formatting content e.g. to make an image float left to the text in a container.

The float property can have one of the following values:

- left - the element floats to the left of its container.
- right - the element floats to the right of its container.

- none - the element does not float (will be displayed just where it occurs in the text. This is default.
- inherit - the element inherits the float value of its parent element.

In the simplest use, the float property can be used to wrap text around images.

The Clear Property

The `clear` property specifies what elements can float beside the cleared element and on which side.

The clear property can have one of the following values:

- none - allows floating elements on both sides. This is default.
- left - no floating elements allowed on the left side.

- right - no floating elements allowed on the right side.
- both - no floating elements allowed on either the left or the right side.
- inherit - the element inherits the clear value of its parent.

The most common way to use the clear property is after you have used a float property on an element. When clearing floats, you should match the clear to the float: if an element is floated to the left, then you should clear to the left. Your floated element will continue to float, but the cleared element will appear below it on the web page.

For example:

```
.div1 { clear: left; }
```

Clearfix Hack

If an element is taller than the element containing it, and it is floated, it will "overflow" outside its container. To fix problem, we add overflow: auto to the stylesheet for the outer div container.

The overflow: auto clearfix works well as long as you are able to keep control of your margins and padding (else you might see scrollbars). The new, modern clearfix hack however, is safer to use, and the following code is used for most webpages:

```
.clearfix::after {
  content: "";
  clear: both;
  display: table;
}
```

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MR YOUNG

IGWURUTA | ISIOKPO | ELELE | IKIRI | OMOKU

mryoung.presmaltra.com.ng