Web designs that adapt

Full-size monitor	
	Tablet
	Phone

STATIC

Static layouts are the traditional web: one design that sits in the center of the page and requires horizontal scrolling if the window is too small for it.

M dot sites are the traditional answer to this, providing a wholly separate site for a lower resolution — and all the work of creating a separate site.

ADAPTIVE

Adaptive is characterized by having defined layouts for different resolutions. When a different resolution is detected, the page switches to a different style set.

Within each layout, resizing the window does not change the layout.

You can think of Adaptive as a series of Static layouts.

LIQUID

Liquid (also called "Fluid") is characterized by scaling the width of parts of the design relative to the window. That is, the individual elements get wider or narrower, text reflows, and images scale as the window gets wider or narrower. But the layout doesn't change.

It tends to fail when the window is much smaller or much larger than it was originally designed for.

RESPONSIVE

Responsive is like Adaptive in having defined layouts for different resolutions, but it is also liquid within each layout.

You can think of Responsive as a series of Liquid layouts.