ADVANCED JSX

class vs className

This lesson will cover more advanced JSX. You'll learn some powerful tricks, and some common errors to avoid.

Grammar in JSX is mostly the same as in HTML, but there are subtle differences to watch out for. Probably the most frequent of these involves the word class.

In HTML, it's common to use class as an attribute name:

<h1 class="big">Hey</h1>

In JSX, you can't use the word class! You have to use className instead:

<h1 className="big">Hey</h1>

This is because JSX gets translated into JavaScript, and class is a reserved word in JavaScript.

When JSX is rendered, JSX className attributes are automatically rendered as class attributes.

Instructions

1.

On line 5, declare a new variable named myDiv. Set myDiv equal to a JSX <div></div> element.

In between the <div></div> tags, write the text I AM A BIG DIV.

Give your <div></div> the following attribute:

className="big"

Checkpoint 2 Passed

Stuck? Get a hint

2.

Underneath your <div></div>, call ReactDOM.render.

For ReactDOM.render()'s first argument, pass in myDiv.

```
For ReactDOM.render()'s second argument, pass in document.getElementById('app').
```

If your rendered <div></div> has a class of "big", then it should look big in the br

app.js

Self-Closing Tags

Another JSX 'gotcha' involves self-closing tags.

What's a self-closing tag?

Most HTML elements use two tags: an *opening tag* (<div>), and a *closing tag* (</div>). However, some HTML elements such as and <input> use only one tag. The tag that belongs to a single-tag element isn't an opening tag nor a closing tag; it's a *self-closing tag*.

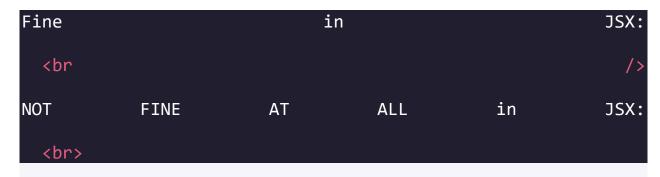
When you write a self-closing tag in HTML, it is *optional* to include a forward-slash immediately before the final anglebracket:

```
Fine in HTML with a slash:
```

Also	fine,	without	the	slash:

But!

In JSX, you have to include the slash. If you write a self-closing tag in JSX and forget the slash, you will raise an error:



Instructions

1.

In app.js, fix the broken JSX by adding slashes to all of the self-closing tags.

Checkpoint 2 Passed

Hint

Close the and
 tags.

JavaScript In Your JSX In Your JavaScript

So far, we've focused on writing JSX expressions. It's similar to writing bits of HTML, but inside of a JavaScript file.

In this lesson, we're going to add something new: regular JavaScript, written inside of a JSX expression, written inside of a JavaScript file.

Whoaaaa...

Instructions

1.

Starting on line 5, carefully write the following code. What do you think will appear in the browser?

Hint

Carefully copy-paste this code, starting on line 5.

```
import React from 'react';
import ReactDOM from 'react-dom';
```

```
// Write code here:
ReactDOM.render(
  <h1>{2+3}</h1>,
  document.getElementById('app')
);
```

Curly Braces in JSX

The code in the last exercise didn't behave as one might expect. Instead of adding 2 and 3, it printed out "2 + 3" as a string of text. Why?

This happened because 2 + 3 is located in between <h1> and </h1> tags.

Any code in between the tags of a JSX element will be read as JSX, not as regular JavaScript! JSX doesn't add numbers - it reads them as text, just like HTML.

You need a way to write code that says, "Even though I am located in between JSX tags, treat me like ordinary JavaScript and not like JSX."

You can do this by wrapping your code in curly braces.

Instructions

1.

Add a pair of curly braces to the code from last exercise, so that your JSX expression looks like this:

$<h1>{2 + 3}</h1>$

Everything inside of the curly braces will be treated as regular JavaScript.

Checkpoint 2 Passed

Hint

Wrap 2 + 3 in curly braces so that it becomes $\{2 + 3\}$.

app.js

```
import React from 'react';
import ReactDOM from 'react-dom';

// Write code here:
ReactDOM.render(
    <h1>{2+3}</h1>,
    document.getElementById('app')
);
```

20 Digits of Pi in JSX

You can now inject regular JavaScript into JSX expressions! This will be extremely useful.

In the code editor, you can see a JSX expression that displays the first twenty digits of pi.

Study the expression and notice the following:

- The code is written in a JavaScript file. By default, it will all be treated as regular JavaScript.
- Find <div> on line 5. From there up through </div>, the code will be treated as JSX.
- Find Math. From there up through (20), the code will be treated as regular JavaScript again.
- The curly braces themselves won't be treated as JSX nor as JavaScript. They are markers that signal the beginning and end of a JavaScript injection into JSX, similar to the quotation marks that signal the boundaries of a string.

Instructions

1. Select app.js.

Declare a new variable named math. Set math equal to a JSX <h1></h1> element.

Put the following text inside of the <h1>:

2 + 3 = 2 + 3

Checkpoint 2 Passed

Hint

Declare a variable named math and set it to $\langle h1 \rangle 2 + 3 = 2 + 3 \langle h1 \rangle$.

2.

At the bottom of the file, call ReactDOM.render().

For ReactDOM.render()'s first argument, pass in math.

For ReactDOM.render()'s second argument, pass in document.getElementById('app').

Checkpoint 3 Passed

Hint

Call ReactDOM.render() with arguments: math and document.getElementById('app').

3.

As you probably expected, the equation was displayed as a string.

Insert a pair of curly braces into the $\langle h1 \rangle \langle /h1 \rangle$, so that the browser displays 2 + 3 = 5.

Checkpoint 4 Passed

Hint

Find the code that says 2 + 3 = 2 + 3 and wrap the right side in curly braces so that it becomes $2 + 3 = \{2 + 3\}$.

pi.js

```
ReactDOM.render(
   pi,
   document.getElementById('app')
);
```

app.js

```
import React from 'react';
import ReactDOM from 'react-dom';

// Write code here:
const math = (
    <h1>2 + 3 = {2 + 3}</h1>
);

ReactDOM.render(math,document.getElementById('app'))
```

Variables in JSX

When you inject JavaScript into JSX, that JavaScript is part of the same environment as the rest of the JavaScript in your file.

That means that you can access variables while inside of a JSX expression, even if those variables were declared on the outside.

Instructions

1.

Replace ReactDOM.render()'s first argument with a
JSX <h1></h1>.

Using curly braces, set the <h1></h1>'s inner text equal to theBestString.

```
Checkpoint 2 Passed
```

Hint

ReactDOM.render()'s first argument should
be <h1>{theBestString}</h1>.

app.js

```
import React from 'react';
import ReactDOM from 'react-dom';

const theBestString = 'tralalalala i am da best';

ReactDOM.render(<h1>{theBestString}</h1>, document.getElemen tById('app'));
```

Variable Attributes in JSX

When writing JSX, it's common to use variables to set attributes.

Here's an example of how that might work:

Notice how in this example, the 's attributes each get their own line. This can make your code more readable if you have a lot of attributes on one element.

Object properties are also often used to set attributes:

```
const
                               pics
                                       "http://bit.ly/1Tqltv5"
 panda:
                                       "http://bit.ly/1XGtkM3"
 owl:
                                        "http://bit.ly/1Upbczi"
 owlCat:
};
const
                               panda
 <img
    src={pics.panda}
   alt="Lazy
                                   Panda"
);
const
                                owl
 <img
    src={pics.owl}
    alt="Unimpressed
                                        Owl"
);
const
                              owlCat
 <img
    src={pics.owlCat}
    alt="Ghastly
                                 Abomination"
```

Instructions

1.

On line 7, declare a new variable named gooseImg. Set its value equal to a JSX element.

Give the an attribute with a *name* of src. Set the attribute's *value* equal to the variable goose.

Checkpoint 2 Passed

Hint

Declare a variable named gooseImg and set it to .

2.

Use ReactDOM.render() to render gooseImg.

ReactDOM.render()'s first argument should be gooseImg.

ReactDOM.render()'s second argument should be document.getElementById('app').

Checkpoint 3 Passed

Hint

```
Call ReactDOM.render() with
arguments: gooseImg and document.getElementById('app').
```

app.js

```
import React from 'react';
import ReactDOM from 'react-dom';

const goose = 'https://content.codecademy.com/courses/React/
react_photo-goose.jpg';

// Declare new variable here:
const gooseImg = <img src={goose} />;

ReactDOM.render(gooseImg,document.getElementById('app'));
```

Event Listeners in JSX

JSX elements can have *event listeners*, just like HTML elements can. Programming in React means constantly working with event listeners.

You create an event listener by giving a JSX element a special attribute. Here's an example:

An event listener attribute's name should be something like onClick or onMouseOver: the word on, plus the type of event that you're listening for. You can see a list of valid event names here.

An event listener attribute's *value* should be a function. The above example would only work if myFunc were a valid function that had been defined elsewhere:

Note that in HTML, event listener *names* are written in all lowercase, such as onclick or onmouseover. In JSX, event listener names are written in camelCase, such as onClick or onMouseOver.

Instructions

1.

Look at line 17. ReactDOM.render() is being passed two null arguments.

Render kitty by replacing the first null with kitty, and the second null with document.getElementById('app').

Checkpoint 2 Passed

Hint

Update the call to ReactDOM.render() with two
arguments: kitty and document.getElementById('app').
2.

Add an onClick attribute to the element. Set onClick's value equal to the makeDoggy function.

Remember, since attributes are a part of JSX expressions, you will need to *inject* JavaScript in order to use makeDoggy.

Click Run, and then click on the browser image to change the kitty into a doggy.

Checkpoint 3 Passed

Hint

The element already has two attributes: src and alt. You'll need to add a third one: onClick={makeDoggy}.

```
import React from 'react';
import ReactDOM from 'react-dom';
```

```
function makeDoggy(e) {
    // Call this extremely useful function on an <img>.
    // The <img> will become a picture of a doggy.
    e.target.setAttribute('src', 'https://content.codecademy.c
om/courses/React/react_photo-puppy.jpeg');
    e.target.setAttribute('alt', 'doggy');
}

const kitty = (
    <img
        src="https://content.codecademy.com/courses/React/react_
photo-kitty.jpg"
        alt="kitty"
        onClick={makeDoggy}/>
);

ReactDOM.render(kitty, document.getElementById('app'));
```

JSX Conditionals: If Statements That Don't Work

Great work! You've learned how to use curly braces to inject JavaScript into a JSX expression!

Here's a rule that you need to know: you can not inject an if statement into a JSX expression.

This code will break:

The reason why has to do with the way that JSX is compiled. You don't need to understand the mechanics of it for now, but if you're interested then you can learn more here.

What if you want a JSX expression to render, but only under certain circumstances? You can't inject an if statement. What can you do?

You have lots of options. In the next few lessons, we'll explore some simple ways to write *conditionals* (expressions that are only executed under certain conditions) in JSX.

JSX Conditionals: If Statements That Do Work

How can you write a *conditional*, if you can't inject an if statement into JSX?

Well, one option is to write an if statement, and not inject it into JSX.

Look at **if.js**. Follow the **if** statement, all the way from line 6 down to line 18.

if.js works, because the words **if** and **else** are *not* injected in between JSX tags. The **if** statement is on the outside, and no JavaScript injection is necessary.

This is a common way to express conditionals in JSX.

Instructions

1.

Select app.js.

Starting on line 16, write an if/else statement, using if.js as a guide.

If (coinToss() === 'heads'), then execute img = .

Inside of the else clause, execute img = <img src={pics.doggy}
/>.

In other words, if the coin lands heads then you should get a picture of a kitty, and if the coin lands tails then you should get a picture of a doggy.

Checkpoint 2 Passed

Hint

Remember: semi-colons are used in JavaScript, but not within JSX expressions!

At the bottom of the file, call ReactDOM.render().

For ReactDOM.render()'s first argument, pass in img.

For ReactDOM.render()'s second argument, pass in document.getElementById('app').

Click Run. Refresh the browser several times. Does the picture change?

Checkpoint 3 Passed

Hint

Call ReactDOM.render() with arguments: img and document.getElementById('app').

If.js

```
import React from 'react';
import ReactDOM from 'react-dom';
function coinToss() {
  // This function will randomly return either 'heads' or 't
ails'.
  return Math.random() < 0.5 ? 'heads' : 'tails';</pre>
const pics = {
  kitty: 'https://content.codecademy.com/courses/React/react
photo-kitty.jpg',
  doggy: 'https://content.codecademy.com/courses/React/react
photo-puppy.jpeg'
};
let img;
// if/else statement begins here:
if (coinToss() === 'heads') {
  img = <img src={pics.kitty} />
else {
```

```
img = <img src={pics.doggy} />
}
ReactDOM.render(img, document.getElementById('app'));
```

JSX Conditionals: The Ternary Operator

There's a more compact way to write conditionals in JSX: the ternary operator.

The ternary operator works the same way in React as it does in regular JavaScript. However, it shows up in React surprisingly often.

Recall how it works: you write x ? y : z, where x, y, and z are all JavaScript expressions. When your code is executed, x is evaluated as either "truthy" or "falsy." If x is truthy, then the entire ternary operator returns y. If x is falsy, then the entire ternary operator returns z. Here's a nice explanation if you need a refresher.

Here's how you might use the ternary operator in a JSX expression:

In the above example, if age is greater than or equal to drinkingAge, then headline will equal <h1>Buy Drink</h1>. Otherwise, headline will equal <h1>Do Teen Stuff</h1>.

Instructions

Take a look at app.js.

On line 14, replace x, y, and z with the following three expressions. You have to decide which is x, which is y, and which is z:

```
'doggy'
'kitty'

coinToss() === 'heads'
'heads' should return 'kitty', and 'tails' should
return 'doggy'.
Checkpoint 2 Passed

Hint

x should be replaced with coinToss() === 'heads'. What
about y and z?
```

```
import React from 'react';
import ReactDOM from 'react-dom';

function coinToss () {
    // Randomly return either 'heads' or 'tails'.
    return Math.random() < 0.5 ? 'heads' : 'tails';
}

const pics = {
    kitty: 'https://content.codecademy.com/courses/React/react
    photo-kitty.jpg',
    doggy: 'https://content.codecademy.com/courses/React/react
    photo-puppy.jpeg'
};

const img = <img src={pics[coinToss() === 'heads' ? 'kitty'
    : 'doggy']} />;

ReactDOM.render(
    img,
```

```
document.getElementById('app')
);
```

JSX Conditionals: &&

We're going to cover one final way of writing conditionals in React: the && operator.

Like the ternary operator, && is not React-specific, but it shows up in React surprisingly often.

In the last two lessons, you wrote statements that would sometimes render a kitty and other times render a doggy. && would not have been the best choice for those lessons.

&& works best in conditionals that will sometimes do an action, but other times do *nothing at all*.

Here's an example:

```
const
                   tasty
 <l
  Applesauce
         !baby
                  &&
                         Pizza
            15
                   Brussels
                              Sprouts
                &&
     age
                     &&
                         Oysters
      age
                20
            >
                25
                     &&
                         Grappa
      age
            >
```

If the expression on the left of the && evaluates as true, then the JSX on the right of the && will be rendered. If the first expression is false, however, then the JSX to the right of the && will be ignored and not rendered.

Instructions

1.

You've been building a React website all about your favorite foods!

You're excited to share your website with your friends, and yet at the same time, you fear the cruel, icy harshness of their judgment.

On line 13, use the && operator to make it so that this expression:

Nacho Cheez Straight Out The Jar

...will only appear if !judgmental. Feel free to use the example code as a guide.

Once you click Run, then every time that you refresh the browser, there will be a 50% chance that judgmental will be true. Refresh until you see both versions of your list.

Checkpoint 2 Passed

Hint

If you wanted to display that list element if judgmental was true, you'd write something that looks like this:

{judgmental && Nacho Cheez Straight Out The Jar
Your solution will look similar.

favorite-foods.js

```
import React from 'react';
import ReactDOM from 'react-dom';
// judgmental will be true half the time.
const judgmental = Math.random() < 0.5;</pre>
const favoriteFoods = (
 <div>
   <h1>My Favorite Foods</h1>
   <l
     Sushi Burrito
     Rhubarb Pie
     { !judgmental && Nacho Cheez Straight Out The Jar<
/li> }
     Broiled Grapefruit
   </div>
ReactDOM.render(
```

```
favoriteFoods,
  document.getElementById('app')
);
```

.map in JSX

The array method .map() comes up often in React. It's good to get in the habit of using it alongside JSX.

If you want to create a list of JSX elements, then .map() is often your best bet. It can look odd at first:

```
const strings = ['Home', 'Shop', 'About Me'];
const listItems = strings.map(string => {string});
{listItems}
```

In the above example, we start out with an array of strings. We call .map() on this array of strings, and the .map() call returns a new array of s.

On the last line of the example, note that {listItems} will evaluate to an array, because it's the returned value of .map()! JSX s don't have to be in an array like this, but they can be.

```
This
       is
          fine
              in JSX,
                     not
                         in
                            an
                               explicit
                                      array:
<l
 item
                                      1
 item
                                      2
                                       3
 item
This
                   is
                            also
                                       fine!
                   liArray
const
                                         = [
 item
                                      1
 item
                                      2
 item
                                       3
];
{liArray}
```

Instructions

1.

You can see that a .map() call is partially set up.

On line 8, write an expression to complete the .map() call. This expression should consist of an , containing the person parameter. Feel free to use the first example as a guide.

Checkpoint 2 Passed

Hint

Complete the call to .map() by adding an element on line 8. It should contain {person}.

2.

On line 12, call ReactDOM.render().

For ReactDOM.render()'s first argument, write a . In between the tags, use curly braces to inject the peopleLis variable.

For ReactDOM.render()'s second argument, use document.getElementById('app').

Checkpoint 3 Passed

Hint

Call ReactDOM.render() with
 arguments: {peopleLis} and document.getElementById(
'app').

```
);
// ReactDOM.render goes here:
ReactDOM.render({peopleLis},document.getElementById
('app'));
```

Keys

When you make a list in JSX, sometimes your list will need to include something called keys:

A key is a JSX attribute. The attribute's *name* is key. The attribute's *value* should be something unique, similar to an id attribute.

keys don't do anything that you can see! React uses them internally to keep track of lists. If you don't use keys when you're supposed to, React might accidentally scramble your list-items into the wrong order.

Not all lists need to have keys. A list needs keys if either of the following are true:

- 1. The list-items have *memory* from one render to the next. For instance, when a to-do list renders, each item must "remember" whether it was checked off. The items shouldn't get amnesia when they render.
- 2. A list's order might be shuffled. For instance, a list of search results might be shuffled from one render to the next.

If neither of these conditions are true, then you don't have to worry about keys. If you aren't sure then it never hurts to use them!

Instructions

1.
On line 8, give your </rr>

What should key's value be?

Each key must be a unique string that React can use to correctly pair each rendered element with its corresponding item in the array.

So, for each element in people, we must generate a unique value. How can you get .map() to produce unique keys?

First, add an i parameter to .map()'s inner function, so that you can access each person's unique index:

```
const peopleLIs = people.map((person, i) =>
```

Now, you can get a unique key on each loop, by adding the following attribute to your

```
key={'person_' + i}
Checkpoint 2 Passed
```

Hint

Start by adding an i parameter to .map()'s inner function, so that you can access each person's unique index: It will look like this:

```
people.map((person, i) =>
```

Now, add a key attribute to each , like this:

ReactDOM.render({peopleLis},document.getElementById
('app'));

React.createElement

You can write React code without using JSX at all!

The majority of React programmers do use JSX, and we will use it for the remainder of this tutorial, but you should understand that it is possible to write React code without it.

The following JSX expression:

const h1 = <h1>Hello world</h1>;

can be rewritten without JSX, like this:

When a JSX element is compiled, the compiler transforms the JSX element into the method that you see above: React.createElement(). Every JSX element is secretly a call to React.createElement().

We won't go in-depth into how React.createElement() works, but you can start with the <u>documentation</u> if you'd like to learn more!

Instructions

1.

Take a look at the following JSX element:

const greatestDivEver = <div>i am div</div>;

In app.js, create the element above without using JSX. Use the example as a guide.

```
Checkpoint 2 Passed
```

Hint

The following JSX expression:

```
const h1 = <h1>Hello world</h1>;
```

...can be rewritten without JSX like this:

Your solution will look similar.

app.js

```
const greatestDivEver = React.createElement(
   "div",
   null,
   "i am div"
);
```

JSX Recap

Congratulations! You have completed the unit on JSX.

You have learned a wide variety of JSX concepts. If you don't feel like you've mastered them all yet, that's okay! These concepts will come up again and again throughout this course, and the following courses.

You are now ready to put your JSX knowledge to use! It's time to move on to the next major topic: React Components.