

REACT

Canva

ref

React supports a special attribute that you can attach to any component. The `ref` attribute takes a callback function, and the callback will be executed immediately after the component is mounted or unmounted.

When the `ref` attribute is used on an HTML element, the `ref` callback receives the underlying DOM element as its argument.

In the typical React dataflow, props are the only way that parent components interact with their children. To modify a child, you re-render it with new props. However, there are a few cases where you need to imperatively modify a child outside of the typical dataflow. The child to be modified could be an instance of a React component, or it could be a DOM element. For both of these cases, React provides an escape hatch

There are a few good use cases for refs:

- Focus selection, or media playback.
- Triggering imperative animations.
- Integrating with third-party DOM libraries.

React will call the `ref` callback with the DOM element when the component mounts, and call it with `null` when it unmounts.

Using the `ref` callback just to set a property on the class is a common pattern for accessing DOM elements.

One use case is to set the property in the `ref` callback like in the above example.

- Another use case is used on a custom component declared as a class, the `ref` callback receives the mounted instance of the component as its argument.

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