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HTML DOM Accessing Nodes (Cont.)

Navigating Node Relationships

The three properties, [parentNode](#), [firstChild](#), and [lastChild](#), follow the document structure and allow short-distance travel in a document.

```
<html>
  <body>
    <p>Hello World!</p>
    <div>
      <p>The DOM is very useful!</p>
      <p>This example demonstrates node relationships.</p>
    </div>
  </body>
</html>
```

In the HTML code above, the first p element is the first child node (`firstChild`) of the body element, and the div element is the last child node (`lastChild`) of the body element.

The parent node (`parentNode`) of the first p element and the div element, is the the body element, and the parent node of the p elements inside the div element, is the div element. The `firstChild` property can also be used to access the text of an element:

```
<html>
  <body>
    <p ID="intro">Hello World!</p>
    <script type="text/javascript">
      x = document.getElementById( "intro" );
      document.write( x.firstChild.nodeValue );
    </script>
  </body>
</html>
```

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DOM Root Nodes

There are two special document properties that allow access to the tags:

- [document.documentElement](#), which returns the root node of the document
- [document.body](#), which gives direct access to the <body> tag

Demonstration

The following demonstration shows how the script of HTML and JavaScript is displayed on the Web.

Display the HTML

Reset

```
<html>
<body>
  <p>Hello World!</p>
  <div>
    <p>The DOM is very useful!</p>
    <p>This example demonstrates the <b>document.body</b>
property.</p>
  </div>
  <script type="text/javascript">
    x = document.body;
    alert( x.innerHTML );
  </script>
</body>
</html>
```

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