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# What is JavaScript

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## Overview

JavaScript, often referred to as JS, is a scripting language that conforms to the ECMAScript specification.

JavaScript is a text-based language, used both on the client-side and server-side, that allows you to make web pages interactive. Where HTML and CSS are languages that give structure and style to web pages, JavaScript gives web pages interactive elements that engage a user.

Common examples of JavaScript that you might use every day include: the search box on Amazon, a news recap video embedded on The New York Times, or refreshing your Twitter feed.

Incorporating JavaScript improves the user experience of the web page by converting it from a static page into an interactive one.

JavaScript adds *interactivity* to web pages.

## Popularity

Over the last few years JavaScript has grown massively in popularity, with many different frameworks that have surfaced. The image below depicts how many frameworks there were in 2009 compared to 2019:



This popularity stems from the **limitless possibilities** JavaScript allows when **working with web pages**. For example:

- Showing or hiding more information with the click of a button
- Changing the colour of a button when the mouse hovers over it
- Sliding through a carousel of images on the homepage
- Zooming in or zooming out on an image
- Displaying animations

