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# Interacting With Elements In Selenium

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### Overview

Each tag on a Web page is an element which can be found and interacted with. The By class is used to select an element, and the WebElement interface has a set of actions which can be performed on every element.

## Finding Elements

Elements can be found by running the webDriver.findElement(By) method. The By class has a selection of methods which can be used to select different types of tags:

By method	Example code	HTML element it could select
By.id	<pre>driver.findElement(By.id("profile-picture")</pre>	<pre><img id="profile- picture"/></pre>
By.cssSelector	<pre>driver.findElement(By.cssSelector("body &gt; div:nth-child(2)"))</pre>	<pre><body></body></pre>
By.xpath	<pre>driver.findElement(By.xpath("/html/body/div[2]"))</pre>	<pre><body></body></pre>
By.name	<pre>driver.findElement(By.name("searchbar"))</pre>	<input <="" name="searchbar" td=""/>
By.className	<pre>driver.findElement(By.className("btn"))</pre>	<pre><input class="btn btn-primary"/></pre>
By.tagName	<pre>driver.findElement(By.tagName("header"))</pre>	<header> Welcome to QA </header>
By.linkText	<pre>driver.findElement(By.linkText("About"))</pre>	<a href="about-&lt;br&gt;page">About</a>
By.partialLinkText	<pre>driver.findElement(By.partialLinkText("out"))</pre>	<a href="about-&lt;br&gt;page">About</a>

id is the best selector to use as it will always be unique.

Selectors such as className are likely to find more than one element, in which case driver.findElements(By.className("btn")) can be used to return an array of found elements instead of just one.

#### **Interactions**

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Interaction	Example code	What interaction does
element.findElement(By)	<pre>element.findElements(By.tagName("li"));</pre>	Finds sub element in selected element. For instance if the selected element was a list, might want to find all list items in that list
element.click()	<pre>element.click();</pre>	Clicks on the element
element.getText()	<pre>String innerText = element.getText();</pre>	Grabs the text from within the element and sub-elements
element.sendKeys(String)	<pre>element.sendKeys("username") Or element.sendKeys(Keys.chord(Keys.SHIFT,    "hello "), "world");</pre>	Sends a string, or a sequence of strings to the selected element. Keys.chord() can be used to simulate pressing many keys at once
element.submit()	element.submit()	If the element is in a form, it will submit the form
element.clear()	element.clear()	If the element is an input it will clear all text in the textbox

Interaction	Example code	What interaction does
element.getAttribute(String)	element.getAttribute("src")	Returns the value of a selected attribute of the element. Useful when automatically testing whether images are displaying by grabbing the src location, and then making a direct request to that location and then checking for a 200 response.
element.getLocation()	<pre>element.getLocation() Or element.getLocation().getX()</pre>	Returns the x and y position of the top-left corner of the element. Useful for checking responsive design
element.getSize()	<pre>element.getSize() Or element.getSize().getHeight()</pre>	Returns the height and width of the element. Useful for checking responsive design

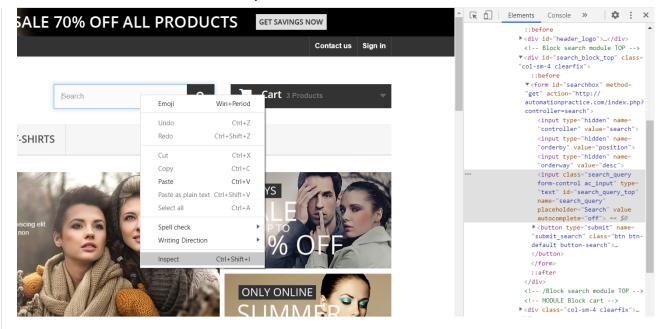
## **Tutorial**

For this tutorial we will be running a search query in an input field. We will then check that the returned results are relevant.

First manually navigate to the <u>automation practice Web site</u> in your browser.

Then right click and select "Inspect" on the element you want to select with Selenium:

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This will select the element in the Web page DOM. The element can then be inspected for appropriate selectors. This element in particular has an id, which is the preferred way of selecting code (as we won't get any conflicts with other elements with the same name).

In this case, the id for the search function is "search\_-query\_-\_top".

In our test, we can use the sendKeys() function to pass a search term (e.g. "Printed") to the search bar before submitting.

We can retrieve a list of the products which appear on the resulting search results page by using driver.findElements(By) and using the class selector (in this case it's "ajax\_block\_product").

We then check if the name inside each product in the list matches our search term:

#### ► AutomationPracticeIndexPageTest

#### Exercises

Automate the following process on the same website:

- 1. Go to the <u>automation practice Web site</u>
- 2. Click T-shirts
- 3. Click the first T-shirt item
- 4. On the new page save the name of the product into a variable and click "Add to Cart"
- 5. On the modal that appears select "continue to checkout"
- 6. Check that the item clicked matches that which is in the basket