

# How to create a React Checkbox

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A short React tutorial by example for beginners about using a checkbox in React. First of all, a checkbox is just an HTML input field with the type of checkbox which can be rendered in React's JSX:

```
const App = () => {
  return (
    <div>
      <input type="checkbox" />
    </div>
  );
};
```

What may be missing is an associated label to signal the user what value is changed with this checkbox:

```
const App = () => {
  return (
    <div>
      <label>
        <input type="checkbox" />
        My Value
      </label>
    </div>
  );
};
```

In your browser, this checkbox can already change its checked state by showing either a check mark or nothing. However, this is just the checkbox's internal HTML state which isn't controlled by React yet.

Let's change this by transforming this checkbox from being uncontrolled to controlled:



```
const App = () => {
  const [checked, setChecked] = React.useState(false);

  const handleChange = () => {
    setChecked(!checked);
  };

  return (
    <div>
      <label>
        <input
          type="checkbox"
          checked={checked}
          onChange={handleChange}
        />
        My Value
      </label>

      <p>Is "Value 1" checked? {checked.toString()}</p>
    </div>
  );
};
```

By using **React's useState Hook** and an event handler, we can keep track of the checkbox's value via **React's state** and change the value via its **onChange** property with an **event handler**.

Next we may want to create a checkbox component which can be used more than once throughout a React project. Therefore, we will extract it as a new **function component** and pass the necessary **props** to it:

```
const App = () => {
  const [checked, setChecked] = React.useState(false);

  const handleChange = () => {
    setChecked(!checked);
  };

  return (
    <div>
      <Checkbox
        label="Value 1"
        value={checked}
        onChange={handleChange}
      />

      <p>Is "Value 1" checked? {checked.toString()}</p>
    </div>
  );
};

const Checkbox = ({ label, value, onChange }) => {
  return (
    <label>
      <input type="checkbox" checked={value} onChange={onChange} />
      {label}
    </label>
  );
};
```



Our checkbox component is a **reusable component** now. For example, if you would give your checkbox some **CSS style** in React, every Checkbox component which is used in your React project would use the same style.

If you would want to create a checkbox group instead, you could just use multiple checkbox components side by side and maybe style them with some border and some alignment, so that a user perceives them as a group of checkboxes:

```
const App = () => {
  const [checkedOne, setCheckedOne] = React.useState(false);
  const [checkedTwo, setCheckedTwo] = React.useState(false);

  const handleChangeOne = () => {
    setCheckedOne(!checkedOne);
  };
};
```

```
const handleChangeTwo = () => {
  setCheckedTwo(!checkedTwo);
};

return (
  <div>
    <Checkbox
      label="Value 1"
      value={checkedOne}
      onChange={handleChangeOne}
    />
    <Checkbox
      label="Value 2"
      value={checkedTwo}
      onChange={handleChangeTwo}
    />
  </div>
);
};
```



That's is for creating a checkbox component in React. If you are a beginner in React, I hope this tutorial helped you to understand some concepts and patterns in React.

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