

# 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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