

# Scrollspy

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## How it works

Scrollspy has a few requirements to function properly:

- It must be used on a Bootstrap [nav component]({{< docsref “/components/navs-tabs” >}}) or [list group]({{< docsref “/components/list-group” >}}).
- Scrollspy requires **position: relative**; on the element you’re spying on, usually the **<body>**.
- Anchors (**<a>**) are required and must point to an element with that **id**.

When successfully implemented, your nav or list group will update accordingly, moving the **.active** class from one item to the next based on their associated targets.

{{< callout >}} ### Scrollable containers and keyboard access

If you’re making a scrollable container (other than the **<body>**), be sure to have a **height** set and **overflow-y: scroll**; applied to it—alongside a **tabindex="0"** to ensure keyboard access. {{< /callout >}}

## Example in navbar

Scroll the area below the navbar and watch the active class change. The dropdown items will be highlighted as well.

Navbar

First

Second

Dropdown

Third

Fourth

```
        <li><a class="dropdown-item" href="#scrollspyHeading5">Fifth</a></li>
    </ul>
</li>
</ul>
```

```
<h4 id="scrollspyHeading1">First heading</h4>
<p>This is some placeholder content for the scrollspy page. Note that as you scroll down the
<h4 id="scrollspyHeading2">Second heading</h4>
<p>This is some placeholder content for the scrollspy page. Note that as you scroll down the
<h4 id="scrollspyHeading3">Third heading</h4>
<p>This is some placeholder content for the scrollspy page. Note that as you scroll down the
<h4 id="scrollspyHeading4">Fourth heading</h4>
<p>This is some placeholder content for the scrollspy page. Note that as you scroll down the
<h4 id="scrollspyHeading5">Fifth heading</h4>
<p>This is some placeholder content for the scrollspy page. Note that as you scroll down the
```

```
<nav id="navbar-example2" class="navbar navbar-light bg-light px-3">
  <a class="navbar-brand" href="#">Navbar</a>
  <ul class="nav nav-pills">
    <li class="nav-item">
      <a class="nav-link" href="#scrollspyHeading1">First</a>
    </li>
    <li class="nav-item">
      <a class="nav-link" href="#scrollspyHeading2">Second</a>
    </li>
    <li class="nav-item dropdown">
      <a class="nav-link dropdown-toggle" data-bs-toggle="dropdown" href="#" role="button" a
      <ul class="dropdown-menu">
        <li><a class="dropdown-item" href="#scrollspyHeading3">Third</a></li>
        <li><a class="dropdown-item" href="#scrollspyHeading4">Fourth</a></li>
        <li><hr class="dropdown-divider"></li>
        <li><a class="dropdown-item" href="#scrollspyHeading5">Fifth</a></li>
      </ul>
    </li>
  </ul>
</nav>
<div data-bs-spy="scroll" data-bs-target="#navbar-example2" data-bs-offset="0" class="scroll
  <h4 id="scrollspyHeading1">First heading</h4>
```

```

<p>...</p>
<h4 id="scrollspyHeading2">Second heading</h4>
<p>...</p>
<h4 id="scrollspyHeading3">Third heading</h4>
<p>...</p>
<h4 id="scrollspyHeading4">Fourth heading</h4>
<p>...</p>
<h4 id="scrollspyHeading5">Fifth heading</h4>
<p>...</p>
</div>

```

## Example with nested nav

Scrollspy also works with nested .navs. If a nested .nav is .active, its parents will also be .active. Scroll the area next to the navbar and watch the active class change.

```

<div class="col-4">
  <nav id="navbar-example3" class="navbar navbar-light bg-light flex-column align-items-stretch">
    <a class="navbar-brand" href="#">Navbar</a>
    <nav class="nav nav-pills flex-column">
      <a class="nav-link" href="#item-1">Item 1</a>
      <nav class="nav nav-pills flex-column">
        <a class="nav-link ms-3 my-1" href="#item-1-1">Item 1-1</a>
        <a class="nav-link ms-3 my-1" href="#item-1-2">Item 1-2</a>
      </nav>
      <a class="nav-link" href="#item-2">Item 2</a>
      <a class="nav-link" href="#item-3">Item 3</a>
      <nav class="nav nav-pills flex-column">
        <a class="nav-link ms-3 my-1" href="#item-3-1">Item 3-1</a>
        <a class="nav-link ms-3 my-1" href="#item-3-2">Item 3-2</a>
      </nav>
    </nav>
  </nav>
</div>
<div class="col-8">
  <div data-bs-spy="scroll" data-bs-target="#navbar-example3" data-bs-offset="0" class="scrollspy">
    <h4 id="item-1">Item 1</h4>
    <p>This is some placeholder content for the scrollspy page. Note that as you scroll down this page, the
    <h5 id="item-1-1">Item 1-1</h5>
    <p>This is some placeholder content for the scrollspy page. Note that as you scroll down this page, the
    <h5 id="item-1-2">Item 1-2</h5>
    <p>This is some placeholder content for the scrollspy page. Note that as you scroll down this page, the
    <h4 id="item-2">Item 2</h4>
    <p>This is some placeholder content for the scrollspy page. Note that as you scroll down this page, the
    <h4 id="item-3">Item 3</h4>
  </div>

```

```

        <p>This is some placeholder content for the scrollspy page. Note that as you scroll down
        <h5 id="item-3-1">Item 3-1</h5>
        <p>This is some placeholder content for the scrollspy page. Note that as you scroll down
        <h5 id="item-3-2">Item 3-2</h5>
        <p>This is some placeholder content for the scrollspy page. Note that as you scroll down
    </div>
</div>

<nav id="navbar-example3" class="navbar navbar-light bg-light flex-column align-items-stretch">
  <a class="navbar-brand" href="#">Navbar</a>
  <nav class="nav nav-pills flex-column">
    <a class="nav-link" href="#item-1">Item 1</a>
    <nav class="nav nav-pills flex-column">
      <a class="nav-link ms-3 my-1" href="#item-1-1">Item 1-1</a>
      <a class="nav-link ms-3 my-1" href="#item-1-2">Item 1-2</a>
    </nav>
    <a class="nav-link" href="#item-2">Item 2</a>
    <a class="nav-link" href="#item-3">Item 3</a>
    <nav class="nav nav-pills flex-column">
      <a class="nav-link ms-3 my-1" href="#item-3-1">Item 3-1</a>
      <a class="nav-link ms-3 my-1" href="#item-3-2">Item 3-2</a>
    </nav>
  </nav>
</nav>

<div data-bs-spy="scroll" data-bs-target="#navbar-example3" data-bs-offset="0" tabindex="0">
  <h4 id="item-1">Item 1</h4>
  <p>...</p>
  <h5 id="item-1-1">Item 1-1</h5>
  <p>...</p>
  <h5 id="item-1-2">Item 1-2</h5>
  <p>...</p>
  <h4 id="item-2">Item 2</h4>
  <p>...</p>
  <h4 id="item-3">Item 3</h4>
  <p>...</p>
  <h5 id="item-3-1">Item 3-1</h5>
  <p>...</p>
  <h5 id="item-3-2">Item 3-2</h5>
  <p>...</p>
</div>

```

## Example with list-group

Scrollspy also works with `.list-groups`. Scroll the area next to the list group and watch the active class change.

```

<div class="col-4">
  <div id="list-example" class="list-group">
    <a class="list-group-item list-group-item-action" href="#list-item-1">Item 1</a>
    <a class="list-group-item list-group-item-action" href="#list-item-2">Item 2</a>
    <a class="list-group-item list-group-item-action" href="#list-item-3">Item 3</a>
    <a class="list-group-item list-group-item-action" href="#list-item-4">Item 4</a>
  </div>
</div>
<div class="col-8">
  <div data-bs-spy="scroll" data-bs-target="#list-example" data-bs-offset="0" class="scrollspy">
    <h4 id="list-item-1">Item 1</h4>
    <p>This is some placeholder content for the scrollspy page. Note that as you scroll down...</p>
    <h4 id="list-item-2">Item 2</h4>
    <p>This is some placeholder content for the scrollspy page. Note that as you scroll down...</p>
    <h4 id="list-item-3">Item 3</h4>
    <p>This is some placeholder content for the scrollspy page. Note that as you scroll down...</p>
    <h4 id="list-item-4">Item 4</h4>
    <p>This is some placeholder content for the scrollspy page. Note that as you scroll down...</p>
  </div>
</div>
<div id="list-example" class="list-group">
  <a class="list-group-item list-group-item-action" href="#list-item-1">Item 1</a>
  <a class="list-group-item list-group-item-action" href="#list-item-2">Item 2</a>
  <a class="list-group-item list-group-item-action" href="#list-item-3">Item 3</a>
  <a class="list-group-item list-group-item-action" href="#list-item-4">Item 4</a>
</div>
<div data-bs-spy="scroll" data-bs-target="#list-example" data-bs-offset="0" class="scrollspy">
  <h4 id="list-item-1">Item 1</h4>
  <p>...</p>
  <h4 id="list-item-2">Item 2</h4>
  <p>...</p>
  <h4 id="list-item-3">Item 3</h4>
  <p>...</p>
  <h4 id="list-item-4">Item 4</h4>
  <p>...</p>
</div>

```

## Usage

### Via data attributes

To easily add scrollspy behavior to your topbar navigation, add `data-bs-spy="scroll"` to the element you want to spy on (most typically this would be the `<body>`). Then add the `data-bs-target` attribute with the ID or class of the parent element of any Bootstrap `.nav` component.

```

body {
  position: relative;
}

<body data-bs-spy="scroll" data-bs-target="#navbar-example">
  ...
  <div id="navbar-example">
    <ul class="nav nav-tabs" role="tablist">
      ...
    </ul>
  </div>
  ...
</body>

```

### Via JavaScript

After adding `position: relative;` in your CSS, call the scrollspy via JavaScript:

```

var scrollSpy = new bootstrap.ScrollSpy(document.body, {
  target: '#navbar-example'
})

```

{{< callout danger >}} ##### Resolvable ID targets required

Navbar links must have resolvable id targets. For example, a `<a href="#home">home</a>` must correspond to something in the DOM like `<div id="home"></div>`. {{< /callout >}}

{{< callout info >}} ##### Non-visible target elements ignored

Target elements that are not visible will be ignored and their corresponding nav items will never be highlighted. {{< /callout >}}

### Methods

**refresh** When using scrollspy in conjunction with adding or removing of elements from the DOM, you'll need to call the refresh method like so:

```

var dataSpyList = [].slice.call(document.querySelectorAll('[data-bs-spy="scroll"]'))
dataSpyList.forEach(function (dataSpyEl) {
  bootstrap.ScrollSpy.getInstance(dataSpyEl)
    .refresh()
})

```

**dispose** Destroys an element's scrollspy. (Removes stored data on the DOM element)

**getInstance** *Static* method which allows you to get the scrollspy instance associated with a DOM element

```
var scrollSpyContentEl = document.getElementById('content')
var scrollSpy = bootstrap.ScrollSpy.getInstance(scrollSpyContentEl) // Returns a Bootstrap Scrollspy instance
```

**getOrCreateInstance** *Static* method which allows you to get the scrollspy instance associated with a DOM element, or create a new one in case it wasn't initialized

```
var scrollSpyContentEl = document.getElementById('content')
var scrollSpy = bootstrap.ScrollSpy.getOrCreateInstance(scrollSpyContentEl) // Returns a Bootstrap Scrollspy instance
```

## Options

Options can be passed via data attributes or JavaScript. For data attributes, append the option name to `data-bs-`, as in `data-bs-offset=""`.

Name

Type

Default

Description

offset

number

10

Pixels to offset from top when calculating position of scroll.

method

string

auto

Finds which section the spied element is in. auto will choose the best method to get scroll coordinates. offset will use the `Element.getBoundingClientRect()` method to get scroll coordinates. position will use the `HTMLElement.offsetTop` and `HTMLElement.offsetLeft` properties to get scroll coordinates.

target

string | jQuery object | DOM element

Specifies element to apply Scrollspy plugin.

## Events

Event type

Description

activate.bs.scrollspy

This event fires on the scroll element whenever a new item becomes activated by the scrollspy.

```
var firstScrollSpyEl = document.querySelector('[data-bs-spy="scroll"]')
firstScrollSpyEl.addEventListener('activate.bs.scrollspy', function () {
    // do something...
})
```