

The use directive

Actions are essentially element-level lifecycle functions. They're useful for things like:

- interfacing with third-party libraries
- lazy-loaded images
- tooltips
- adding custom event handlers

In this app, we want to make the orange modal close when the user clicks outside it. It has an event handler for the `outclick` event, but it isn't a native DOM event. We have to dispatch it ourselves. First, import the `clickOutside` function...

```
import { clickOutside } from "../click_outside.js";
```

...then use it with the element:

```
<div class="box" use:clickOutside on:outclick="{() => (showModal = false)}">  
  Click outside me!  
</div>
```

Open the `click_outside.js` file. Like transition functions, an action function receives a `node` (which is the element that the action is applied to) and some optional parameters, and returns an action object. That object can have a `destroy` function, which is called when the element is unmounted.

We want to fire the `outclick` event when the user clicks outside the orange box. One possible implementation looks like this:

```
export function clickOutside(node) {  
  const handleClick = (event) => {  
    if (!node.contains(event.target)) {  
      node.dispatchEvent(new CustomEvent("outclick"));  
    }  
  };  
  
  document.addEventListener("click", handleClick, true);  
  
  return {  
    destroy() {
```

```
        document.removeEventListener("click", handleClick, true);
    },
};
}
```

Update the `clickOutside` function, click the button to show the modal and then click outside it to close it.