What is the DOM?

DOM stands for Document Object Model. It is a programming interface that allows us to create, change, or remove elements from the document.

We can also add events to these elements to make our page more dynamic.

The DOM views an HTML document as a tree of nodes. A node represents an HTML element.

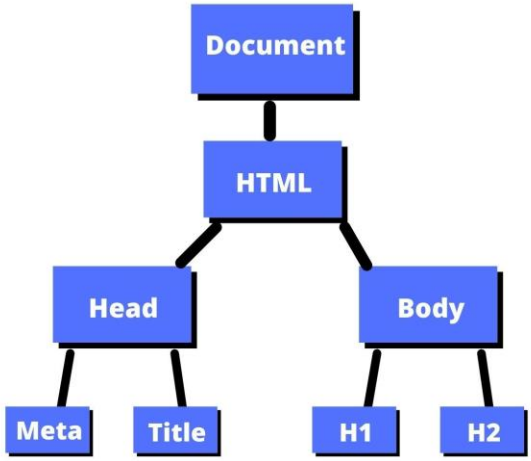
Let's take a look at this HTML code to better understand the DOM tree structure.

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
  <head>
    <meta charset="UTF-8">
    <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
    <meta http-equiv="X-UA-Compatible" content="ie=edge">
    <title>DOM tree structure</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    <h1>DOM tree structure</h1>
    <h2>Learn about the DOM</h2>
  </body>
</html>
```

Our document is called the root node and contains one child node which is the `<html>` element. The `<html>` element contains two children which are the `<head>` and `<body>` elements.

Both the <head> and <body> elements have children of their own.

Here is another way to visualize this tree of nodes.



We can access these elements in the document and make changes to them using JavaScript.

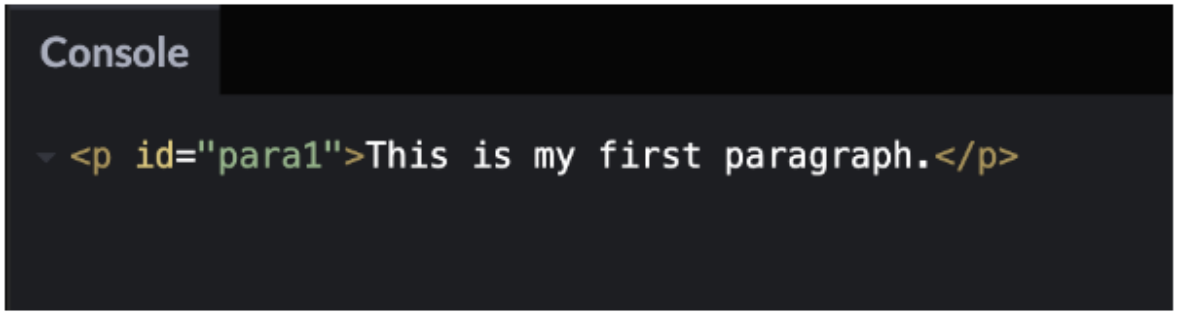
getElementById()

In HTML, **id**s are used as unique identifiers for the HTML elements. This means you cannot have the same `id` name for two different elements.

```
<p id="para1">This is my first paragraph.</p>
<p id="para2">This is my second paragraph.</p>
```

This code tells the computer to get the `<p>` element with the `id` of `para1` and print the element to the console.

```
const paragraph1 = document.getElementById("para1");
console.log(paragraph1);
```




```
const paragraph1 = document.getElementById("para1");
console.log(paragraph1.textContent);
```