Understanding How JavaScript Works in HTML (Simple Explanation)

JavaScript can be used in two ways on a webpage:

Embedded in HTML (inside <script> tags)

In a separate JavaScript file (with a .js extension)

1 Embedding JavaScript in an HTML File

You can write JavaScript directly inside your HTML file using <script> tags.

Example:

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
<head>
        <title>JavaScript Example</title>
</head>
<body>

<h1>Welcome to My Website</h1>
        <button onclick="sayHi()">Click Me</button>

<script>
        function sayHi() {
            alert("Hello world!");
        }
        </script>
</body>
</html>
```

How it Works:

- The JavaScript function sayHi() is inside the <script> tags.
- When the button is clicked, the function runs and shows an alert.
- This method works, but it's better to keep JavaScript separate from HTML.

2 Using an External JavaScript File (.js file)

Instead of writing JavaScript inside the HTML file, it's **better** to put it in a separate .js file.

```
Step 1: Create a JavaScript File (script.js)

function sayHi() {
    alert("Hello world!");
}

✓ This file only contains JavaScript code (no <script> tags).

Step 2: Link the .js File in HTML

<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
<head>
    <title>External JavaScript</title>
</head>
```

```
<body>
<h1>Welcome to My Website</h1>
<button onclick="sayHi()">Click Me</button>
<script src="script.js"></script> <!-- Linking external JS file -->
</body>
</html>
```

How it Works:

- The browser loads the script.js file when the page loads.
- When the button is clicked, it runs the sayHi() function from the external file.

3 Best Practices for JavaScript Placement

- Always put JavaScript at the end of the <body> section to prevent delays in loading HTML and CSS.
- ✓ Use external .js files whenever possible for better organization.
- ✓ Use multiple JavaScript files if needed (script1.js, script2.js, etc.).

4□ Why Use External JavaScript Files?

- **Easier to maintain** (separates JavaScript from HTML).
- **Faster page loading** (browser caches .js files).
- **Better code organization** (especially for large projects).