[How to make a click or double click on a word, on a webpage to trigger an event handler?](https://stackoverflow.com/questions/878637/how-to-make-a-click-or-double-click-on-a-word-on-a-webpage-to-trigger-an-event-h)

[http://www.answers.com](http://www.answers.com/)

if the user double clicks on any word in the page, a pop up box will show up and shows the definition for that word.

I can think of a way to use DOM scripting to break up all words in the page and then make each of them go under a separate "span" element... but otherwise isn't it true that if all the text is under a "p" element, then the "p" element node get triggered to handle the double click event, but there is no easy way of telling which word is clicked on?

[javascript](https://stackoverflow.com/questions/tagged/javascript) [javascript-events](https://stackoverflow.com/questions/tagged/javascript-events" \o ") [event-handling](https://stackoverflow.com/questions/tagged/event-handling) [dhtml](https://stackoverflow.com/questions/tagged/dhtml" \o "show questions tagged 'dhtml')

[share](https://stackoverflow.com/q/878637)[improve this question](https://stackoverflow.com/posts/878637/edit)

[edited May 18 '09 at 16:56](https://stackoverflow.com/posts/878637/revisions)

* Good question, neat functionality, will be watching this question – [The real napster](https://stackoverflow.com/users/70283/the-real-napster) [May 18 '09 at 16:54](https://stackoverflow.com/questions/878637/how-to-make-a-click-or-double-click-on-a-word-on-a-webpage-to-trigger-an-event-h" \l "comment685861_878637)

add a comment

You simply add a double click event to the entire document, like so:

function get\_selection() {

var txt = '';

if (window.getSelection) {

txt = window.getSelection();

} else if (document.getSelection) {

txt = document.getSelection();

} else if (document.selection) {

txt = document.selection.createRange().text;

}

return txt;

}

$(document).dblclick(function(e) {

var t = get\_selection();

alert(t);

});

If you only wanted this to work on select paragraphs, you would change the selector to p.myclass or something like that. This hinges on the fact double clicking a word highlights it in browsers. Not really sure if it's exactly how answers.com does it, to be honest.

[share](https://stackoverflow.com/a/878735)[improve this answer](https://stackoverflow.com/posts/878735/edit)

[edited Aug 5 '13 at 14:44](https://stackoverflow.com/posts/878735/revisions)

answered May 18 '09 at 17:02

[[https://www.gravatar.com/avatar/80ae8ec34e9e3e66c5be50733afaa44e?s=32&d=identicon&r=PG](https://stackoverflow.com/users/16417/paolo-bergantino)](https://stackoverflow.com/users/16417/paolo-bergantino)

[Paolo Bergantino](https://stackoverflow.com/users/16417/paolo-bergantino)

**372k**73486423

* Beat me a few minutes. I was about to suggest the same thing. +1 – [Jose Basilio](https://stackoverflow.com/users/83667/jose-basilio) [May 18 '09 at 17:10](https://stackoverflow.com/questions/878637/how-to-make-a-click-or-double-click-on-a-word-on-a-webpage-to-trigger-an-event-h#comment685921_878735)
* I can't seem to get this to work. [erxz.com/pb/25570](http://erxz.com/pb/25570) – [radicalmatt](https://stackoverflow.com/users/107498/radicalmatt" \o "432 reputation) [May 24 '10 at 8:13](https://stackoverflow.com/questions/878637/how-to-make-a-click-or-double-click-on-a-word-on-a-webpage-to-trigger-an-event-h#comment2944793_878735)
* Sorry, the problem was that the user defined getSelection function is clobbering window.getSelection. An easy fix is just renaming the user defined function. – [radicalmatt](https://stackoverflow.com/users/107498/radicalmatt" \o "432 reputation) [May 24 '10 at 21:56](https://stackoverflow.com/questions/878637/how-to-make-a-click-or-double-click-on-a-word-on-a-webpage-to-trigger-an-event-h#comment2950279_878735)
* Could you explain the need for the two else if conditions? I'm guessing this sort of thing is handled differently by different browsers, is that the case? – [radicalmatt](https://stackoverflow.com/users/107498/radicalmatt" \o "432 reputation) [May 27 '10 at 8:13](https://stackoverflow.com/questions/878637/how-to-make-a-click-or-double-click-on-a-word-on-a-webpage-to-trigger-an-event-h#comment2971758_878735)
* @misterMatt Yes, the function covers all the ways in which one would get the selected text in different browsers. – [Paolo Bergantino](https://stackoverflow.com/users/16417/paolo-bergantino) [May 27 '10 at 14:27](https://stackoverflow.com/questions/878637/how-to-make-a-click-or-double-click-on-a-word-on-a-webpage-to-trigger-an-event-h#comment2974485_878735)

add a comment

up vote5down vote

Here you go, a blog article that describes how you do this using jQuery. His test implementation is similar to what you want, namely double clicking a word pulls up the definition from a dictionary:

[Using jQuery and Double clicks to get data](http://www.dumpsterdoggy.com/articles/?combine-jquery-and-double-clicks-to-get-data)

**Notes:**

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/878637/how-to-make-a-click-or-double-click-on-a-word-on-a-webpage-to-trigger-an-event-h>