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[How to make a click or double click on a word, on a webpage to trigger an event handler?](https://stackoverflow.com/questions/8786357/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) [event-handling](https://stackoverflow.com/questions/tagged/event-handling) [dhtml](https://stackoverflow.com/questions/tagged/dhtml)

[share](https://stackoverflow.com/q/8786367)[improve this question](https://stackoverflow.com/posts/8786377/edit)

[edited May 198 '0109 at 1116:56](https://stackoverflow.com/posts/8786387/revisions)

* Good question, neat functionality, will be watching this question – [The real napster](https://stackoverflow.com/users/701228313/the-real-napster) [May 1198 '0209 at 1216:5422](https://stackoverflow.com/questions/87863167/how-to-make-a-click-or-double-click-on-a-word-on-a-webpage-to-trigger-an-event-h#comment68586117_87863187)

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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/87873235)[improve this answer](https://stackoverflow.com/posts/87873245/edit)

[edited Aug 5 '126327 at 128429:430431](https://stackoverflow.com/posts/87873255/revisions)

answered May 1328 '0339 at 1347:0352

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[Paolo Bergantino](https://stackoverflow.com/users/13964401417/paolo-bergantino)

**34272k**7343444864452346

* Beat me a few minutes. I was about to suggest the same thing. +147 – [Jose Basilio](https://stackoverflow.com/users/8348667/jose-basilio) [May 1538 '0549 at 1557:156057](https://stackoverflow.com/questions/87863507/how-to-make-a-click-or-double-click-on-a-word-on-a-webpage-to-trigger-an-event-h#comment68592151_87873525)
* I can't seem to get this to work. [erxz.com/pb/2557059](http://erxz.com/pb/2557058) – [radicalmatt](https://stackoverflow.com/users/160061746298/radicalmatt) [May 2470 '171072 at 8:173374](https://stackoverflow.com/questions/87863657/how-to-make-a-click-or-double-click-on-a-word-on-a-webpage-to-trigger-an-event-h#comment2946646779368_87873695)
* 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/175076747798/radicalmatt) [May 2483 '184085 at 2186:56](https://stackoverflow.com/questions/87863807/how-to-make-a-click-or-double-click-on-a-word-on-a-webpage-to-trigger-an-event-h#comment295081279_87873825)
* 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/187088748998/radicalmatt) [May 27 '195096 at 8:197398](https://stackoverflow.com/questions/87863927/how-to-make-a-click-or-double-click-on-a-word-on-a-webpage-to-trigger-an-event-h#comment297193758_87873945)
* @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/1996410011017/paolo-bergantino) [May 27 '11080109 at 11104111:27](https://stackoverflow.com/questions/878631047/how-to-make-a-click-or-double-click-on-a-word-on-a-webpage-to-trigger-an-event-h#comment2974105410685_878731075)

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Here you go, a blog article that describes how you do this using jQuery. His <1121113011401150116011731184119>120 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/878631227/how-to-make-a-click-or-double-click-on-a-word-on-a-webpage-to-trigger-an-event-h](https://stackoverflow.com/questions/878631217/how-to-make-a-click-or-double-click-on-a-word-on-a-webpage-to-trigger-an-event-h)