



It's not your HTML

errors The DOM has to consist of valid HTML code, thus any errors (such as forgetting to have closing tags, will be fixed by the DOM.

JavaScript When we change the page dynamically, such as through JavaScript, we are changing the DOM.



It's not what you see in the browser

To display a page, the browser has to construct what's known as the Render Tree.

The Render Tree is what is 'rendered' to the browser's screen. Often the DOM will contain elements (such as div tags) that are hidden from the browser's view.



It's not what you see in DevTools

The DOM has to consist of valid HTML, and HTML only. Therefore, any CSS or other text added to our HTML is excluded as being officially part of the DOM.

But as we've seen, some pseudo-elements are shown in DevTools. Technically these are not part of the DOM.



So then, what is the DOM?

The true DOM is nowhere to be seen

WHAT IS THE DOM

The true DOM is nowhere to be seen ...

Weird right!

But don't worry, the closest approximation to the DOM is in fact the element inspector within DevTools. For all practical purposes (and we love being practical), this is the DOM.