

Day 16



Element only Navigation:

What is Element-only Navigation?

In the DOM (Document Object Model), every part of an HTML page — including tags, text, and comments — is treated as a node. But sometimes, we only want to navigate between element nodes (like `<div>`, `<p>`, `<h1>`) and ignore text nodes (like spaces or line breaks).

This is called Element-only Navigation.

Example HTML

```
<div id="container">  
  <h2>Heading</h2>  
  <p>Paragraph</p>  
</div>
```

Here, inside `<div>` there are:

- Two element nodes → `<h2>`, `<p>`
- Plus some text nodes (spaces and line breaks)

If you use general node navigation (`firstChild`, `nextSibling`), those text nodes will also be counted — which can cause confusion.

Why Use Element-only Navigation?

To skip text and comment nodes and only deal with real HTML elements. That's why we use the Element-only properties.

Element-only Navigation Properties

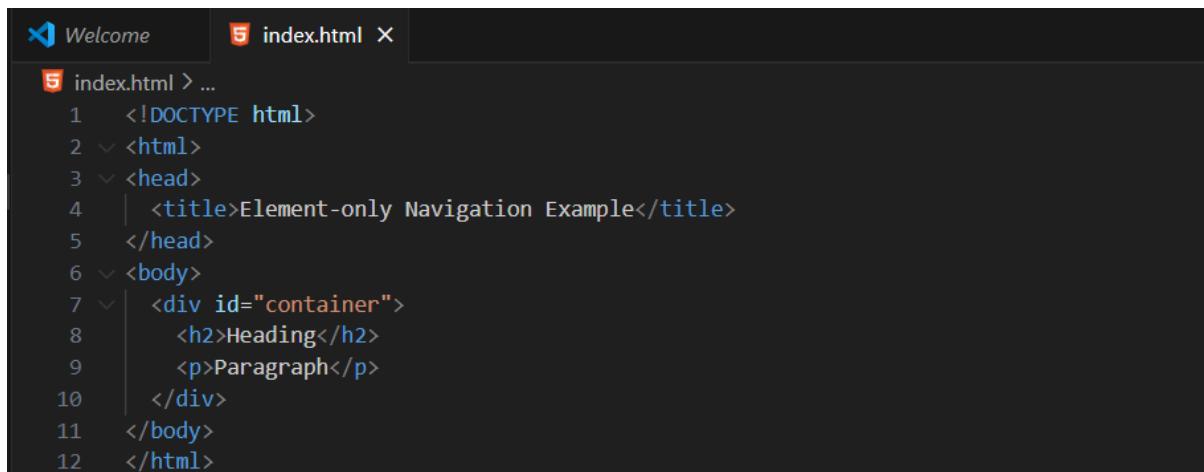
Property	Description	Example
<code>firstElementChild</code>	First child element	<code>div.firstElementChild</code>
<code>lastElementChild</code>	Last child element	<code>div.lastElementChild</code>
<code>nextElementSibling</code>	Next element in same parent	<code>h2.nextElementSibling</code>
<code>previousElementSibling</code>	Previous element in same parent	<code>p.previousElementSibling</code>

Property	Description	Example
children	All child elements	div.children

Difference Between “Node” and “Element”

Type	Includes	Example Property
Node Navigation	Elements + Text + Comments	firstChild, nextSibling
Element-only Navigation	Only HTML elements	firstElementChild, nextElementSibling

To understand this, we shall start from the basics:

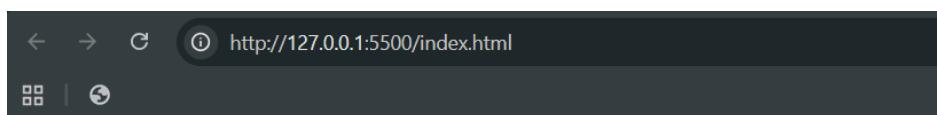


```

Welcome index.html x
index.html > ...
1  <!DOCTYPE html>
2  <html>
3  <head>
4  |  <title>Element-only Navigation Example</title>
5  </head>
6  <body>
7  |  <div id="container">
8  |    <h2>Heading</h2>
9  |    <p>Paragraph</p>
10 |  </div>
11 </body>
12 </html>

```

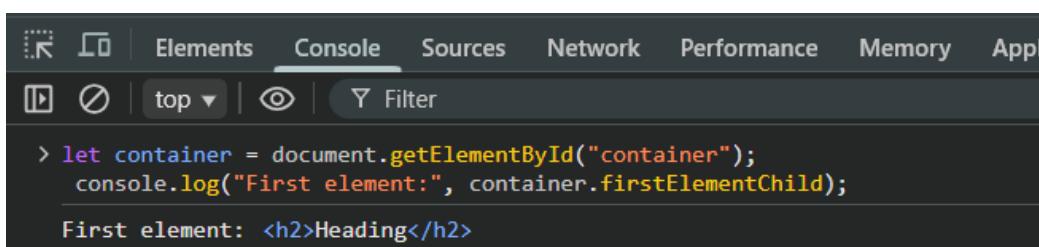
Output:



Heading

Paragraph

Console:



```

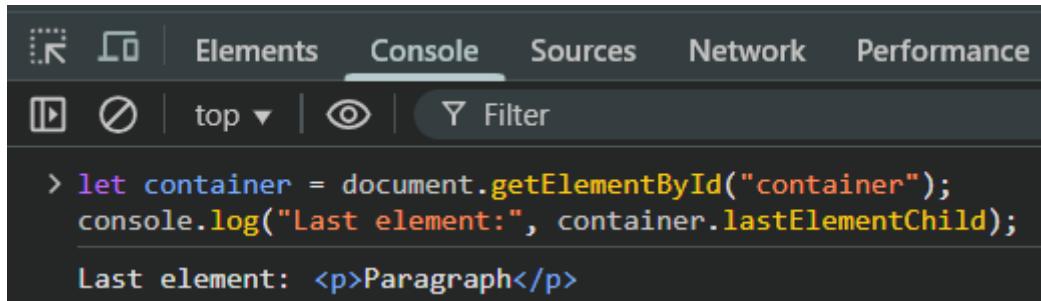
Elements Console Sources Network Performance Memory App
top ▾ Filter

> let container = document.getElementById("container");
  console.log("First element:", container.firstElementChild);

First element: <h2>Heading</h2>

```

Also,



```
Elements Console Sources Network Performance
▶ top □ Filter

> let container = document.getElementById("container");
  console.log("Last element:", container.lastElementChild);

Last element: <p>Paragraph</p>
```

Also,

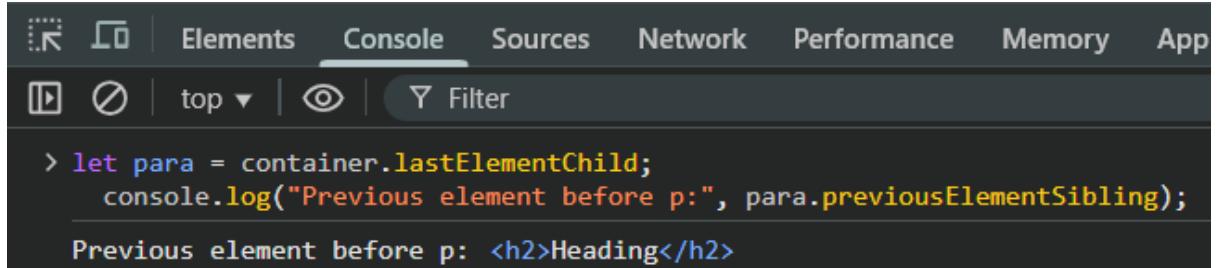


```
Elements Console Sources Network Performance Memory
▶ top □ Filter

> let heading = container.firstChild;
  console.log("Next element after h2:", heading.nextElementSibling);

Next element after h2: <p>Paragraph</p>
```

Also,

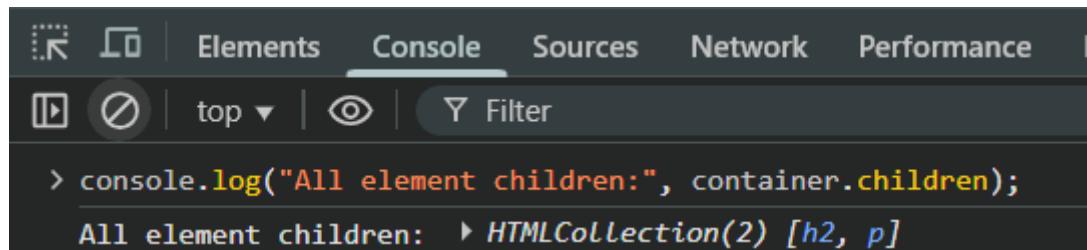


```
Elements Console Sources Network Performance Memory App
▶ top □ Filter

> let para = container.lastElementChild;
  console.log("Previous element before p:", para.previousElementSibling);

Previous element before p: <h2>Heading</h2>
```

Also,



```
Elements Console Sources Network Performance
▶ top □ Filter

> console.log("All element children:", container.children);

All element children: ▶ HTMLCollection(2) [h2, p]
```

--The End--