



JS DOM Traversal Cheat Sheet

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Element vs Node	Element	Node	
Types	Only HTML Elements , <div>, <body>, <a>, etc.</body></div>	Anything within an HTML document including comments, text, HTML elements and much more "text", comment , 	
Methods/Properties	A special type of node with all the methods/properties of a node plus additional methods/properties	The most basic HTML piece with only the most basic methods/properties	
Which To Use	Almost always use elements	Can contain non-HTML elements so nodes are generally harder to work with	
HTMLCollection vs NodeList	HTMLCollection	NodeList	
Element Types	Only HTML Elements , <div>, <body>, <a>, etc.</body></div>	Anything within an HTML document including comments, text, HTML elements and much more "text", comment , 	
Available Array Methods map, forEach, reduce, filter, etc.	None	Only forEach	
Live Updates			
When a new element is added to the page and it would match the elements in the list it is automatically added to the list	Always	Sometimes	
Which To Use	Generally don't use as live updates can lead to hard to fix bugs	Use static NodeLists or convert to an array since arrays have many additional methods such as map and reduce	

Parent			
Name	Return Type	Description	Results
<pre>parentElement a.parentElement</pre>	Element	Select the parent element of the current element Select the div parent of the a	"text" a span
parentNode a.parentNode	Node	Select the parent node of the current element Select the div parent of the a	"text" a span
<pre>closest a.closest(".c")</pre>	Element	Select the closest ancestor element that matches the CSS selector Select the first ancestor of the a tag with the class c	div a b

Descendants Description Name **Return Type** Results Select the first element that getElementById matches the id Element #b #c #d Select the element with the id b document.getElementById("b") Only works on the document Select all elements that match div span the class name that are getElementsByClassName **HTMLCollection** descendants of the current .a d. Elements Only element div.getElementsByClassName("a") Live Select all elements with the class a that .a .b .b .a are descendants of the div Select all elements of a div span specific type that are **HTMLCollection** getElementsByTagName descendants of the current а b Elements Only element div.getElementsByTagName("b") Live Select all b elements that are b b a а descendants of the div Select all elements that match div span the CSS selector that are querySelectorAll NodeList descendants of the current .a d. Elements Only Static div.querySelectorAll(".a") Select all element with the class a that .b are descendants of the div Select the first element that div span matches the CSS selector that querySelector is a descendant of the current Element .a .b element div.querySelector(".a") Select the first element with the class a .b .b .a that is a descendant of the div div Select all child elements of the children HTMLCollection Elements Only current element "text" Live div.children Select the child elements of the div a span div Select all child nodes of the childNodes Nodel ist All Nodes current element div.childNodes Live Select the child nodes of the div "text" а span

