**How jQuery Works**

[**https://learn.jquery.com/about-jquery/how-jquery-works/**](https://learn.jquery.com/about-jquery/how-jquery-works/)

[link](https://learn.jquery.com/about-jquery/how-jquery-works/#jquery-the-basics)**jQuery: The Basics**

This is a basic tutorial, designed to help you get started using jQuery. If you don't have a test page setup yet, start by creating the following HTML page:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10  11  12  13  14  15  16 | **<!doctype html>**  <html>  <head>  <meta charset="utf-8">  <title>Demo</title>  </head>  <body>  <a href="http://jquery.com/">jQuery</a>  <script src="jquery.js"></script>  <script>    *// Your code goes here.*    </script>  </body>  </html> |

The src attribute in the <script> element must point to a copy of jQuery. Download a copy of jQuery from the [Downloading jQuery](http://jquery.com/download/) page and store the jquery.js file in the same directory as your HTML file.

**Note**: When you download jQuery, the file name may contain a version number, e.g., jquery-x.y.z.js. Make sure to either rename this file to jquery.js or update the src attribute of the <script> element to match the file name.

[link](https://learn.jquery.com/about-jquery/how-jquery-works/#launching-code-on-document-ready)**Launching Code on Document Ready**

To ensure that their code runs after the browser finishes loading the document, many JavaScript programmers wrap their code in an onload function:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2  3  4  5 | window.onload = **function**() {    alert( "welcome" );    }; |

Unfortunately, the code doesn't run until all images are finished downloading, including banner ads. To run code as soon as the document is ready to be manipulated, jQuery has a statement known as the [ready event](http://api.jquery.com/ready/):

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2  3  4  5 | $( document ).ready(**function**() {    *// Your code here.*    }); |

**Note**: The jQuery library exposes its methods and properties via two properties of the window object called jQuery and $. $ is simply an alias for jQuery and it's often employed because it's shorter and faster to write.

For example, inside the ready event, you can add a click handler to the link:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9 | $( document ).ready(**function**() {    $( "a" ).click(**function**( event ) {    alert( "Thanks for visiting!" );    });    }); |

Copy the above jQuery code into your HTML file where it says // Your code goes here. Then, save your HTML file and reload the test page in your browser. Clicking the link should now first display an alert pop-up, then continue with the default behavior of navigating to [http://jquery.com](http://jquery.com/).

For click and most other [events](http://api.jquery.com/category/events/), you can prevent the default behavior by calling event.preventDefault() in the event handler:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10  11 | $( document ).ready(**function**() {    $( "a" ).click(**function**( event ) {    alert( "As you can see, the link no longer took you to jquery.com" );    event.preventDefault();    });    }); |

Try replacing your first snippet of jQuery code, which you previously copied in to your HTML file, with the one above. Save the HTML file again and reload to try it out.

[link](https://learn.jquery.com/about-jquery/how-jquery-works/#complete-example)**Complete Example**

The following example illustrates the click handling code discussed above, embedded directly in the HTML <body>. Note that in practice, it is usually better to place your code in a separate JS file and load it on the page with a <script> element's src attribute.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10  11  12  13  14  15  16  17  18  19  20  21 | **<!doctype html>**  <html>  <head>  <meta charset="utf-8">  <title>Demo</title>  </head>  <body>  <a href="http://jquery.com/">jQuery</a>  <script src="jquery.js"></script>  <script>    $( document ).ready(**function**() {  $( "a" ).click(**function**( event ) {  alert( "The link will no longer take you to jquery.com" );  event.preventDefault();  });  });    </script>  </body>  </html> |