How Can You Import and Export Components in React?

In earlier lessons, you learned how to work with imports and exports in JavaScript. In this lesson, we will take a look at how to import and export components in React.

In this example, we have a `Cat` component that belongs in a file called `Cat.jsx`. For the file extension, we are using the `.jsx` file extension because this file is mainly working with JSX.

This `Cat` component returns a JSX markup with a title and image for a cat called Mr. Whiskers:

```
function Cat() {
  return (
    <div className="card">
      <h2>Mr. Whiskers</h2>
      <img
        src="https://cdn.freecodecamp.org/curriculum/cat-photo-app/running-cats.jpg"
        alt="Tuxedo cats running on dirt ground."
      />
    </div>
  );
}
```

If we want to use our `Cat` component in another file, we need to first export it like this:

```
function Cat() {
  return (
    <div className="card">
      <h2>Mr. Whiskers</h2>
      <img
        src="https://cdn.freecodecamp.org/curriculum/cat-photo-app/running-cats.jpg"
        alt="Tuxedo cats running on dirt ground."
      />
    </div>
  );
}

export default Cat;
```

We are using the `default` keyword because this will be the default export from the module. You can also choose to export the component on the same line as the component definition like this:

```
export default function Cat() {
  return (
    <div className="card">
      <h2>Mr. Whiskers</h2>
      <img
        src="https://cdn.freecodecamp.org/curriculum/cat-photo-app/running-cats.jpg"
        alt="Tuxedo cats running on dirt ground."
      />
    </div>
  );
}
```

You can choose to import child components in other parent component files, or import them in the root component file. For this example, we will import the `Cat` component inside the root component file.

Every React project will have a top-level component, typically called `App.jsx`:

```
export default function App() {
  return (
    // return component here
  );
}
```

This file is usually located in the `src` directory of your project. You'll learn more about common project layouts in a future lesson.

To use the `Cat` component inside the root `App` component, you will need to import it like this:

```
import Cat from "./Cat";

export default function App() {
  return (
    // return component here
  );
}
```

Now, you can return the `Cat` component inside the `App` component like this:

```
import Cat from "./Cat";

export default function App() {
  return (
    <Cat />
  );
}
```

As you continue building your own React projects, you'll become more comfortable organizing components, importing them where needed, and creating sophisticated UIs by composing these modular components.

Questions

Which of the following is the correct way to export a React component?

```
export default function Cat() {
  return (
    <div className="card">
      <h2>Mr. Whiskers</h2>
      <img
        src="https://cdn.freecodecamp.org/curriculum/cat-photo-app/running-
cats.jpg"
        alt="Tuxedo cats running on dirt ground."
      />
    </div>
  );
}
```

```
exportComponent function Cat() {
  return (
    <div className="card">
      <h2>Mr. Whiskers</h2>
      <img
        src="https://cdn.freecodecamp.org/curriculum/cat-photo-app/running-
cats.jpg"
        alt="Tuxedo cats running on dirt ground."
      />
    </div>
  );
}
```

```
e.default function Cat() {
  return (
    <div className="card">
      <h2>Mr. Whiskers</h2>
      <img
        src="https://cdn.freecodecamp.org/curriculum/cat-photo-app/running-
cats.jpg"
        alt="Tuxedo cats running on dirt ground."
      />
    </div>
  );
}
```

```
default function Cat() {
  return (
    <div className="card">
      <h2>Mr. Whiskers</h2>
      <img
        src="https://cdn.freecodecamp.org/curriculum/cat-photo-app/running-
cats.jpg"
        alt="Tuxedo cats running on dirt ground."
      />
    </div>
  );
}
```

Where would you typically import a child component like the `Cat` component in a React project?

Inside the `index.html` file.

Inside the `cat-photo-app.css` file.

In a parent component or the root component file (typically `App.jsx`).

In the public folder.

What is the purpose of the `import` statement in the `App` component?

It automatically styles the `App` component.

It imports the `Cat` component, allowing it to be used within the `App` component.

It sets the default state for the `App` component.

It allows the App to run faster.