**Don't Act on Absent Elements**

jQuery won't tell you if you're trying to run a whole lot of code on an empty selection — it will proceed as though nothing's wrong. It's up to you to verify that your selection contains some elements.

// BAD: this runs three functions

// before it realizes there's nothing

// in the selection

$('#nosuchthing').slideUp();

// Better

var $mySelection = $('#nosuchthing');

if ($mySelection.length) { mySelection.slideUp(); }

// BEST: add a doOnce plugin

jQuery.fn.doOnce = function(func){

this.length && func.apply(this);

return this;

 }

 $('li.cartitems').doOnce(function(){

// make it ajax! \o/

});

This guidance is especially applicable for jQuery UI widgets, which have a lot of overhead even when the selection doesn't contain elements.