|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Part 8. Plugins** | | |
| [Prev](javascript:window.parent.location.href=window.parent.prev;) |  | [Next](javascript:window.parent.location.href=window.parent.next;) |

**Part 8. Plugins**

**What exactly is a plugin?**

A jQuery plugin is simply a new method that we use to extend jQuery's prototype object. By extending the prototype object you enable all jQuery objects to inherit any methods that you add. As established, whenever you call jQuery() you're creating a new jQuery object, with all of jQuery's methods inherited.

The idea of a plugin is to do something with a collection of elements. You could consider each method that comes with the jQuery core a plugin, like fadeOut or addClass.

You can make your own plugins and use them privately in your code or you can release them into the wild. There are thousands of jQuery plugins available online. The barrier to creating a plugin of your own is so low that you'll want to do it straight away!