JavaScript

JavaScript is the programming language of HTML and the Web.

JavaScript is one of the **3 languages** all web developers **must** learn:

1. **HTML** to define the content of web pages
2. **CSS** to specify the layout of web pages
3. **JavaScript** to program the behavior of web pages

JavaScript is a very powerful client-side scripting language. JavaScript is a lightweight, interpreted programming language.JavaScript is used mainly for enhancing the interaction of a user with the webpage. In other words, you can make your webpage more lively and interactive, with the help of JavaScript. JavaScript is also being used widely in game development and Mobile application development.

JavaScript was first known as LiveScript, but Netscape changed its name to JavaScript, possibly because of the excitement being generated by Java. JavaScript made its first appearance in Netscape 2.0 in 1995 with the name LiveScript. The general-purpose core of the language has been embedded in Netscape, Internet Explorer, and other web browsers.

How to Run JavaScript?

Being a scripting language, **JavaScript cannot run on its own. In fact, the browser is responsible for running JavaScript code**. When a user requests an HTML page with JavaScript in it, the script is sent to the browser and it is up to the browser to execute it. The main advantage of JavaScript is that **all modern web browsers support** JavaScript. So, you do not have to worry about whether your site visitor uses Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, Firefox or any other browser. JavaScript will be supported. Also, JavaScript **runs on any operating system** including Windows, Linux or Mac. Thus, JavaScript overcomes the main disadvantages of VBScript (Now deprecated) which is limited to just IE and Windows.

Tools You Need

To start with, you need a text editor to write your code and a browser to display the web pages you develop. You can use a text editor of your choice including Notepad++, Visual Studio Code, Sublime Text, Atom or any other text editor you are comfortable with. You can use any web browser including Google Chrome, Firefox, Microsoft Edge, Internet Explorer etc.

JavaScript Can Change HTML Content

One of many JavaScript HTML methods is getElementById().

This example uses the method to "find" an HTML element (with id="demo") and changes the element content (innerHTML) to "Hello JavaScript":

Example:

```
document.getElementById("demo").innerHTML = "Hello JavaScript";
```

JavaScript Where To:

The **<script>** Tag

In HTML, JavaScript code must be inserted between <script> and </script> tags.

Example

```
<script>
document.getElementById("demo").innerHTML = "Hi Students";
</script>
```

Enabling JavaScript in Browsers

All the modern browsers come with built-in support for JavaScript. Frequently, you may need to enable or disable this support manually. This chapter explains the procedure of enabling and disabling JavaScript support in your browsers: Internet Explorer, Firefox, chrome, and Opera.

JavaScript in Internet Explorer

Here are simple steps to turn on or turn off JavaScript in your Internet Explorer −

- Follow **Tools → Internet Options** from the menu.
- Select **Security** tab from the dialog box.
- Click the **Custom Level** button.
- Scroll down till you find **Scripting** option.
- Select *Enable* radio button under **Active scripting**.
- Finally click OK and come out

To disable JavaScript support in your Internet Explorer, you need to select **Disable** radio button under **Active scripting**.

JavaScript in Firefox

Here are the steps to turn on or turn off JavaScript in Firefox −

- Open a new tab → type **about: config** in the address bar.
- Then you will find the warning dialog. Select **I'll be careful, I promise!**
- Then you will find the list of **configure options** in the browser.
- In the search bar, type **javascript.enabled**.
- There you will find the option to enable or disable javascript by right-clicking on the value of that option → **select toggle**.

If javascript.enabled is true; it converts to false upon clicking **toogle**. If javascript is disabled; it gets enabled upon clicking toggle.

JavaScript in Chrome

Here are the steps to turn on or turn off JavaScript in Chrome −

- Click the Chrome menu at the top right hand corner of your browser.
- Select **Settings**.
- Click **Show advanced settings** at the end of the page.
- Under the **Privacy** section, click the Content settings button.
- In the "Javascript" section, select "Do not allow any site to run JavaScript" or "Allow all sites to run JavaScript (recommended)".

JavaScript in Opera

Here are the steps to turn on or turn off JavaScript in Opera −

- Follow **Tools → Preferences** from the menu.
- Select **Advanced** option from the dialog box.
- Select **Content** from the listed items.
- Select **Enable JavaScript** checkbox.
- Finally click OK and come out.

To disable JavaScript support in your Opera, you should not select the **Enable JavaScript checkbox**.

Warning for Non-JavaScript Browsers

If you have to do something important using JavaScript, then you can display a warning message to the user using <noscript> tags.

You can add a noscript block immediately after the script block as follows −

```
<html>
  <body>
    <script language = "javascript" type = "text/javascript">
      <!--
        document.write("Hello World!")
      //-->
    </script>

    <noscript>
      Sorry...JavaScript is needed to go ahead.
    </noscript>
  </body>
</html>
```

Now, if the user's browser does not support JavaScript or JavaScript is not enabled, then the message from </noscript> will be displayed on the screen.