



JavaScript Get the Parent Element parentNode

Summary: in this tutorial, you will learn how to get the parent node of an element by using the JavaScript `parentNode` attribute of the `Node` object.

Introduction to parentNode attribute

To get the parent node of a specified node in the DOM tree, you use the `parentNode` property:

```
let parent = node.parentNode;
```

The `parentNode` is read-only.

The `Document` and `DocumentFragment` nodes do not have a parent. Therefore, the `parentNode` will always be `null`.

If you create a new node but haven't attached it to the DOM tree, the `parentNode` of that node will also be `null`.

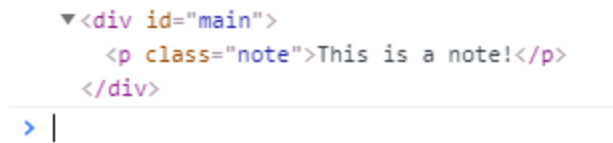
JavaScript parentNode example

See the following HTML document:

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
<meta charset="utf-8">
<title>JavaScript parentNode</title>
</head>
<body>
  <div id="main">
    <p class="note">This is a note!</p>
  </div>
```

```
<script>
    let note = document.querySelector('.note');
    console.log(note.parentNode);
</script>
</body>
</html>
```

The following picture shows the output in the Console:



```
▼ <div id="main">
  <p class="note">This is a note!</p>
</div>
> |
```

How it works:

- First, select the element with the `.note` class by using the `querySelector()` method.
- Second, find the parent node of the element.

Summary

- The `node.parentNode` returns the read-only parent node of a specified node or `null` if it does not exist.
- The `document` and `DocumentFragment` do not have a parent node.

Quiz