JavaScript prepend() Method

Summary: in this tutorial, you'll learn about the JavaScript `prepend()` method that inserts `Node` objects or `DOMString` objects before the first child of a parent node.

Introduction to JavaScript prepend() method

The `prepend()` method inserts a set of `Node` objects or `DOMString` objects before the first child of a parent node:

```
parentNode.prepend(...nodes);
parentNode.prepend(...DOMStrings);
```

The `prepend()` method inserts `DOMString` objects as `Text` nodes. Note that a `DOMString` is a UTF-16 string that directly maps to a string.

The `prepend()` method returns `undefined`.

JavaScript prepend() method examples

Let's take some examples of using the `prepend()` method.

1) Using the prepend() method to prepend an element example

Let's say you have the following `<ul>` element:

```html
<ul id="app">
    <li>HTML</li>
</ul>
```

This example shows how to create a list of `li` elements and prepend them to the `ul` element:

```
let app = document.querySelector('#app');

let langs = ['CSS','JavaScript','TypeScript'];

let nodes = langs.map(lang => {
    let li = document.createElement('li');
    li.textContent = lang;
    return li;
});

app.prepend(...nodes);
```

Output HTML:

```html
<ul id="app">
    <li>CSS</li>
    <li>JavaScript</li>
    <li>TypeScript</li>
    <li>HTML</li>
</ul>
```

How it works:

- First, select the `ul` element by its id by using the `querySelector()` method.

- Second, declare an array of strings.

- Third, for each element in an array, create a new `li` element with the `textContent` is assigned to the array element.

- Finally, prepend the `li` elements to the `ul` parent element by using the `prepend()` method.

2) Using the prepend() method to prepend text to an element example

Suppose that you have the following element:

```html
<div id="app"></div>
```

The following shows how to use the `prepend()` method to prepend a text to the above `<div>` element:

```
let app = document.querySelector('#app');
app.prepend('prepend() Text Demo');


console.log(app.textContent);
```

Output HTML:

```
<div id="app">prepend() Text Demo</div>
```

Summary

- Use the `parentNode.prepend()` method to prepend a list of `Node` objects or `DOMString` objects before the first child node of the parent node.

Quiz