# JavaScript insertBefore

**Summary**: in this tutorial, you will learn how to use the JavaScript `insertBefore()` to insert a node before another node as a child node of a specified parent node.

## Introduction to JavaScript insertBefore() method

To insert a node before another node as a child node of a parent node, you use the `parentNode.insertBefore()` method:

```
parentNode.insertBefore(newNode, existingNode);
```

In this method:

- The `newNode` is the new node to be inserted.
- The `existingNode` is the node before which the new node is inserted. If the `existingNode` is `null`, the `insertBefore()` inserts the `newNode` at the end of the `parentNode` 's child nodes.

The `insertBefore()` returns the inserted child node.

## JavaScript insertBefore() helper function

The following `insertBefore()` function inserts a new node before a specified node:

```
function insertBefore(newNode, existingNode) {
    existingNode.parentNode.insertBefore(newNode, existingNode);
}
```

## JavaScript insertBefore() example

Suppose that you have the following list of items:

```html
<ul id="menu">
    <li>Services</li>
    <li>About</li>
    <li>Contact</li>
</ul>
```

The following example uses the `insertBefore()` method to insert a new node as the first list item:

```javascript
let menu = document.getElementById('menu');
// create a new li node
let li = document.createElement('li');
li.textContent = 'Home';

// insert a new node before the first list item
menu.insertBefore(li, menu.firstElementChild);
```

How it works.

- First, get the `menu` element using the `getElementById()` method.

- Second, create a new list item using the `createElement()` method.

- Third, insert the list item element before the first child element of the `menu` element using the `insertBefore()` method.

Put it all together.

```html
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>

<head>
    <meta charset="utf-8">
    <title>JavaScript insertBefore()</title>
</head>

<body>
```

```
<ul id="menu">
    <li>Services</li>
    <li>About</li>
    <li>Contact</li>
</ul>
<script>
    let menu = document.getElementById('menu');
    // create a new li node
    let li = document.createElement('li');
    li.textContent = 'Home';


    // insert a new node before the first list item
    menu.insertBefore(li, menu.firstElementChild);
</script>
</body>


</html>
```

## Summary

- Use the `parentNode.insertBefore()` to insert a new node before an existing node as a child node of a parent node.