



JavaScript removeChild() Method

Summary: in this tutorial, you will learn how to use the JavaScript `removeChild()` method to remove a child node from a parent node.

Introduction to JavaScript removeChild() method

To remove a child element of a node, you use the `removeChild()` method:

```
let childNode = parentNode.removeChild(childNode);
```

The `childNode` is the child node of the `parentNode` that you want to remove. If the `childNode` is not the child node of the `parentNode`, the method throws an exception.

The `removeChild()` returns the removed child node from the DOM tree but keeps it in the memory, which can be used later.

If you don't want to keep the removed child node in the memory, you use the following syntax:

```
parentNode.removeChild(childNode);
```

The child node will be in the memory until the JavaScript garbage collector destroys it.

JavaScript removeChild() method example

Suppose you have the following list of items:

```
<ul id="menu">
  <li>Home</li>
  <li>Products</li>
```

```
<li>About Us</li>
</ul>
```

The following example uses the `removeChild()` to remove the last list item:

```
let menu = document.getElementById('menu');
menu.removeChild(menu.lastElementChild);
```

How it works:

- First, get the `ul` element with the id `menu` by using the `getElementById()` method.
- Then, remove the last element of the `ul` element by using the `removeChild()` method.
The `menu.lastElementChild` property returns the last child element of the `menu`.

Put it all together.

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
  <meta charset="utf-8">
  <title>JavaScript removeChild()</title>
</head>
<body>
  <ul id="menu">
    <li>Home</li>
    <li>Products</li>
    <li>About Us</li>
  </ul>
  <script>
    let menu = document.getElementById('menu');
    menu.removeChild(menu.lastElementChild);
  </script>
</body>
</html>
```

Removing all child nodes of an element

To remove all child nodes of an element, you use the following steps:

- Get the first node of the element using the `firstChild` property.
- Repeatedly removing the child node until there are no child nodes left.

The following code shows how to remove all list items from the `menu` element:

```
let menu = document.getElementById('menu');
while (menu.firstChild) {
  menu.removeChild(menu.firstChild);}
```

You can remove all child nodes of an element by setting the `innerHTML` property of the parent node to blank:

```
let menu = document.getElementById('menu');
menu.innerHTML = '';
```

Summary

- Use `parentNode.removeChild()` to remove a child node from a parent node.
- The `parentNode.removeChild()` throws an exception if the child node cannot be found in the parent node.

Quiz