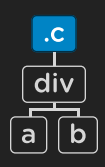
JS DOM Traversal Cheat Sheet

By Web Dev Simplified https://courses.webdevsimplified.com

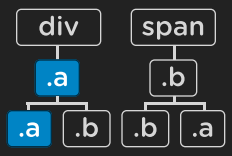
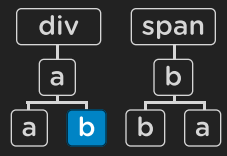
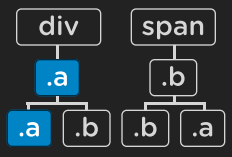
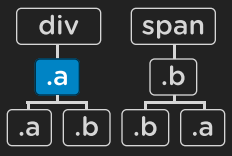
Element vs Node	Element	Node
Types	Only HTML Elements , , <body>, <a>, etc.	Anything within an HTML document including comments, text, HTML elements and much more “text”, <!-- comment -->,
Methods/Properties	A special type of node with all the methods/properties of a node plus additional methods/properties	The most basic HTML piece with only the most basic methods/properties
Which To Use	Almost always use elements	Can contain non-HTML elements so nodes are generally harder to work with

HTMLCollection vs NodeList	HTMLCollection	NodeList
Element Types	Only HTML Elements , , <body>, <a>, etc.	Anything within an HTML document including comments, text, HTML elements and much more “text”, <!-- comment -->,
Available Array Methods map, forEach, reduce, filter, etc.	None	Only forEach
Live Updates When a new element is added to the page and it would match the elements in the list it is automatically added to the list	Always	Sometimes
Which To Use	Generally don’t use as live updates can lead to hard to fix bugs	Use static NodeLists or convert to an array since arrays have many additional methods such as map and reduce

Parent

Name	Return Type	Description	Results
`parentElement` `a.parentElement`	Element	Select the parent element of the current element Select the div parent of the a	
`parentNode` `a.parentNode`	Node	Select the parent node of the current element Select the div parent of the a	
`closest` `a.closest(“.c”)`	Element	Select the closest ancestor element that matches the CSS selector Select the first ancestor of the a tag with the class c	

Descendants

Name	Return Type	Description	Results
getElementById `document.getElementById("b")`	Element	Select the first element that matches the id Select the element with the id b *Only works on the document*	
getElementsByClassName `div.getElementsByClassName("a")`	HTMLCollection Elements Only Live	Select all elements that match the class name that are descendants of the current element Select all elements with the class a that are descendants of the div	
getElementsByTagName `div.getElementsByTagName("b")`	HTMLCollection Elements Only Live	Select all elements of a specific type that are descendants of the current element Select all b elements that are descendants of the div	
querySelectorAll `div.querySelectorAll(".a")`	NodeList Elements Only Static	Select all elements that match the CSS selector that are descendants of the current element Select all element with the class a that are descendants of the div	
querySelector `div.querySelector(".a")`	Element	Select the first element that matches the CSS selector that is a descendant of the current element Select the first element with the class a that is a descendant of the div	
children `div.children`	HTMLCollection Elements Only Live	Select all child elements of the current element Select the child elements of the div	
childNodes `div.childNodes`	NodeList All Nodes Live	Select all child nodes of the current element Select the child nodes of the div	

Siblings

Name	Return Type	Description	Results
nextElementSibling `div.nextElementSibling`	Element	Select the first element that comes after the current element Select the a element directly after the div	
nextSibling `div.nextSibling`	Node	Select the first node that comes after the current element Select the text node directly after the div	
previousElementSibling `div.previousElementSibling`	Element	Select the first element that comes before the current element Select the b element directly before the div	
previousSibling `div.previousSibling`	Node	Select the first node that comes before the current element Select the b element directly before the div