How to work with JS libraries

Most of your JavaScript should probably be written in React components. But it's not unusual at all for us to want to combine JavaScript utilities into a file that should be included in multiple components. This keeps our code DRY[1]. We've written some JavaScript helper utilities and put them in files that can be easily included. Let's work with them in our React app.

Importing a local JavaScript library

1. Open App.js and add this:

```
console.log(1234.567.toCurrency());
```

2. Run and test. You'll see an error because toCurrency isn't defined for a JavaScript number.

3. If you look in the starters folder, you'll find a folder called helpers. Copy Date.js and Currency.js to your project.

4. Import both of those files into App.js.

5. Run and test again. If you see $1,234.57 in the console you did it right.

What you did there was to include a JavaScript library. There was needed functionality that is in a separate pure JavaScript file and you included that functionality, some of which will come in handy later.

That was cool. Now let's do the same with a library downloaded from the Internet.

Importing a Material Design library

You and your business partners have decided on using Material Design Lite (MDL) as your CSS library to give your site a look and feel that your client will love.

In the last chapter you downloaded and installed the material-design-lite library. That library has mostly CSS but it has some JavaScript also. We're going to make use of that MDL JavaScript now.

6. Run and test your site. Look at the upper-left corner of the page. Do you see anything to the left of our company name? You shouldn't.

7. Now edit App.js. At the top of your file import MDL's JavaScript like this:

```
import 'material-design-lite/material';
```

8. Without changing anything else, run it again. Looking in that same spot, there's now a hamburger menu! Click the hamburger menu. Does you see a navigation drawer slide out? It should if everything is working right.

9. Also change the width of your window. Your menu is now responsive!

It turns out that Material Design Lite allows us to include a responsive menu but It relies on some JavaScript to be present for it to run. You've just added that JavaScript.

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[1] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Don't_repeat_yourself