Questions JavaScript

1. Explain the difference between the == operator and the === operator.

Javascript uses automatic type coercion when doing arithmetic. This means that when a string is substracted from an integer, the string is coerced to an integer. When it is not obvious to what value something maps, this is converted to NaN. For example "five" -4 will be converted to NaN -4, which will give NaN as outcome.

The '=='-operator uses automatic conversion in comparing things. This means "five" and "adjkfkadjg" both will be converted to NaN when compared to a non-string. This is often useful to see if a variable ha a meaningful integer referencing to it.

The '==='-operator does not use type conversion and is most often useful to prevent unwanted type conversion from happening. This type conversion is sometimes not predictable ("" == false results in true). The use of '===' is recommended when one is not 100% sure both sides of the comparisons will be of the same type.

2. Explain what a closure is. (Note that JavaScript programs use closures very often).

"Being able to reference a specific instance of a local binding in an enclosing scope is called closure. A function that references binding from local scopes around it is called a closure." This means that a closure is a function that uses local variables only present in the function to provide its return, which are deleted thereafter. Since functions close after the return statement, these local variables can be reused without causing any problems (see function wrapValue).

3. Explain what higher order functions are.

Higher-order functions are functions that rely on other functions, by taking them as arguments or by returning to them. They create a greater level of abstraction but can help making the code less verbose.

4. Explain what a query selector is and give an example line of JavaScript that uses a query selector.

A query selector is a tool that returns the first element in a document that matches the selected selector, or group of selectors, and returns *null* if no matches have been found.

Var el = document.querySelector(".mijnklasse");

This function returns the first element of Class mijnklasse that appears in the document.