[This Stack Overflow thread](https://webtoolsweekly.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ea228d7061e8bbfa8639666ad&id=099b60f491&e=042bc4db41" \t "_blank) discusses different ways to trigger a click event on an element even when the click doesn't actually occur via user input. If you've used jQuery, then you might be familiar with trigger(), which allows you to do this.  
  
The thread, however, points out an old DOM method called click() that can be used similarly. What's interesting is that [the old spec](https://webtoolsweekly.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ea228d7061e8bbfa8639666ad&id=e9fc5cb2ab&e=042bc4db41) (which is the only one MDN's brief article references for this method) says this method will:  
  
*"Simulate a mouse-click. For INPUT elements whose type attribute has one of the following values: 'button', 'checkbox', 'radio', 'reset', or 'submit'."*  
  
But despite that this seemed to be originally limited to clicks on certain types of elements, you can apparently do this on any element. For example, assuming this HTML:

|  |
| --- |
| <**div** class="box"></**div**> |

I can do this:

|  |
| --- |
| **let** myBox = document.querySelector('.box');  myBox.addEventListener('click', **function** () {   document.body.style.background = 'aqua'; }, **false**);  myBox.click(); |

[JS Bin Demo](https://webtoolsweekly.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ea228d7061e8bbfa8639666ad&id=de9d5d6e90&e=042bc4db41)  
  
Here I'm triggering the click on a div element, and it works. And this is in agreement with [the current HTML spec](https://webtoolsweekly.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ea228d7061e8bbfa8639666ad&id=10eb549075&e=042bc4db41) (not the DOM spec), which includes click(). There it runs through some specific steps the browser should take when this method is used. The click() method is also referenced in the DOM spec, but only as a side point while discussing [the isTrusted attribute](https://webtoolsweekly.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ea228d7061e8bbfa8639666ad&id=79d314ad06&e=042bc4db41).  
  
So if you ever need to simulate a click on some element, this is an easy and mostly cross-browser way to accomplish it.