Javascript for web development
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Lab 1: Portfolio website

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Introduction

This lab was about creating a portfolio website from scratch using HTML and CSS. I started with a very simple beginning of a portfolio website that I had already made. Using the knowledge in the course, I extended it thoroughly, making it much more advanced and something I can fill with real content later.

The website is created with the "grade 5" alternative.

Below I write about some of the challenges faced and how I overcame those challenges.

Challenge 1: making a contact form

It was mentioned in the instructions that we should create a contact form using `mailto:` for submission. I searched in order to find tutorials about this but could not find one that really was based on something simple like a `mailto` link. Several tutorials suggested using a service called `formsubmit.co`, where you let them receive the message which is then forwarded to your e-mail. Since this seemed a common and also easy solution that got me a complete working contact form, I settled for this option. In the end, it did seem to work.

Challenge 2: making a responsive website for various screen sizes

I learned about media queries and how to use them to make the website adjust to different screen sizes. It seemed very straight-forward and quick and I understood the principles quickly. However, when I tried using them, they simply seemed not to work. When I checked the website through my phone, it still looked like the desktop version. In the end, I realized, after reading through an article on W3Schools, that I had to insert the line `<meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">` in the `<head>` tag in every HTML file. I at first didn't think this was necessary or that it would make any useful difference, but apparently this was the missing link and after including it my media queries worked perfectly.

Challenge 3: making a nice-looking image gallery

Image galleries was something I had learnt a few months ago but had forgotten the details for this project. I went back to a YouTube tutorial that I watched some time ago, and was able to create a gallery short therafter. The gallery is based on CSS grid, with the `grid-template-columns` parameter set according to the current screen width, alternating between three, two or a single row depending on the screen size. To get a nice title with background on top of each image in the gallery, I use `position:relative` combined with `position:absolute`. This lets me put a nice label on top of the image.

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