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# Document.querySelector()

The `Document` method `querySelector()` returns the first `Element` within the document that matches the specified selector, or group of selectors. If no matches are found, `null` is returned.

**Note:** The matching is done using depth-first pre-order traversal of the document's nodes starting with the first element in the document's markup and iterating through sequential

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```
element = document.querySelector(selectors);
```



## Parameters

### ***selectors***

A `DOMString` containing one or more selectors to match. This string must be a valid CSS selector string; if it isn't, a `SYNTAX_ERR` exception is thrown. See [Locating DOM elements using selectors](#) for more about selectors and how to manage them.

**Note:** Characters that are not part of standard CSS syntax must be escaped using a backslash character. Since JavaScript also uses backslash escaping, be especially careful when writing string literals using these characters. See [Escaping special characters](#) for more information.

## Return value

An `HTMLElement` object representing the first element in the document that matches the specified set of CSS selectors, or `null` is returned if there are no matches.

If you need a list of all elements matching the specified selectors, you should use `querySelectorAll()` instead.

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## Usage notes

If the specified selector matches an ID that is incorrectly used more than once in the document, the first element with that ID is returned.

CSS pseudo-elements will never return any elements, as specified in the [Selectors API](#).

## Escaping special characters

To match against an ID or selectors that do not follow standard CSS syntax (by using a colon or space inappropriately, for example), you must escape the character with a backslash ("`\`"). As the backslash is also an escape character in JavaScript, if you are entering a literal string, you must escape it *twice* (once for the JavaScript string, and another time for `querySelector()`):

```
1 <div id="foo\bar"></div>
2 <div id="foo:bar"></div>
3
4 <script>
5   console.log('#foo\bar');           // "#fooar" (\b is the backspace control character)
6   document.querySelector('#foo\bar'); // Does not match anything
```

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```
14 | document.querySelector('#foo\\:bar'); // Ma the second div
    | </script>
```

## Examples [↗](#)

### Finding the first element matching a class [↗](#)

In this example, the first element in the document with the class "myclass" is returned:

```
1 | var el = document.querySelector(".myclass");
```

### A more complex selector [↗](#)

Selectors can also be really powerful, as demonstrated in the following example. Here, the first `<input>` element with the name "login" (`<input name="login"/>`) located inside a `<div>` whose class is "user-panel main" (`<div class="user-panel main">`) in the document is returned:

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## Specifications

Specification	Status	Comment
DOM The definition of 'document.querySelector()' in that specification.	<b>LS</b> Living Standard	

## Browser compatibility

[Update compatibility data on GitHub](#)


querySelector	
Chrome	1
Edge	12
Firefox	3.5
IE	8

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Opera Android	10.1	
Safari iOS	3.2	
Samsung Internet Android	?	

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Full support



Compatibility unknown

## See also

- [Locating DOM elements using selectors](#)
- [Element.querySelector\(\)](#)
- [Document.querySelectorAll\(\)](#)

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