

Adding, Removing & Toggling Classes With classList in JavaScript

It's much easier than it used to be to modify classes on an element, thanks in large part to the `classList` object.

Say we have an element like this:



```
<div class="cool new shades">  
  🧊  
</div>
```

Let's play around with the classes on that element. First, let's grab a reference to the element in a `shadesEl` variable:

```
let shadesEl = document.querySelector('.cool');
```

```
console.log(shadesEl.classList);  
// ["cool", "new", "shades", value: "cool new shades"]  
  
console.log(shadesEl.classList[1]); // new
```

This works, but we should instead call one of the following methods on the `classList` object:

add

Add one or more classes to the element:

```
shadesEl.classList.add('make', 'me', 'look', 'rad');
```

Our element now:

```
<div class="cool new shades make me look rad">  
  🦖  
</div>
```

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contains

Contains returns a boolean indicating if the class is present:

```
console.log(shadesEl.classList.contains('look')); // true
```

item

Get the class that's at the provided index:

```
console.log(shadesEl.classList.item(3)); // make
```

remove

Remove one or more classes:

```
shadesEl.classList.remove('cool', 'make', 'me');
```

```
<div class="new shades look rad">
```



```
</div>
```

JavaScript won't complain if you try to remove a class that doesn't exist.

toggle

Instead of doing a whole dance like this if you want to toggle a class on or off:

```
// Tedious toggle
if (shadesEl.classList.contains('rad')) {
  shadesEl.classList.remove('rad');
} else {
  shadesEl.classList.add('rad');
}
```

...you can simply use `classList.toggle` instead. Say something like this on a button click:

```
coolButton.addEventListener('click', () => {  
  shadesEl.classList.toggle('cool');  
});
```

`classList.toggle` will return true if the class was added and false if it was removed:

```
let a = shadesEl.classList.toggle('cool');  
  
console.log(a); // true --> class was added
```

`classList.toggle` optionally takes a second argument that should evaluate to a boolean. This will force toggle to either add the class or remove it depending on the how the second argument evaluates:

```
let someCondition;  
  
let b = shadesEl.classList.toggle('cool', !!someCondition);  
console.log(b);  
// false, `someCondition` is undefined and evaluates to false, class is removed  
  
someCondition = 'I wear my sunglasses at night';  
  
let c = shadesEl.classList.toggle('cool', !!someCondition);  
console.log(c);  
// true, `someCondition` evaluates to true, class is added.
```

Using !! in front of an expression coerces the value to a boolean.

👤 And that's it! It doesn't get any easier than this.

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