

Exercise Overview

In this exercise, you'll learn how to incorporate the GreenSock Animation Platform (GSAP) into a project and animate some basic CSS properties of an image. We will explore the basic syntax of a TweenLite tween and show you just how easy and hassle-free animation can be with GSAP.

TweenLite, the core of the GSAP engine, handles animating just about any property of any object. It is relatively lightweight yet full-featured.

GSAP's architecture lets you load just the files you need to keep overall file size small, or if you favor convenience, you can just load TweenMax which packages many of the core components into one file. For now we will focus on loading just what we need.

Previewing the Finished Animation

1. Navigate to the **tweeningBasics** folder and double-click on **finished.html**. You will see the blue zebra image rotating across the screen. Cool!
 2. To see the transition again, you can hit **F5** (Windows) or **Cmd-R** (Mac) to reload the browser. Feel free to do this until you get a solid feel for the animation.
 3. Close Chrome.
-

Loading Scripts

In this exercise, we'll be using three components of GSAP in order to enable the tweening of the CSS properties of an element. We'll animate using the core component TweenLite and two plugins: the CSSPlugin and EasePack.js.

1. In a code editor (such as Notepad++) open **start.html** from the **tweeningBasicsGSAP** folder.
2. Let's first get acquainted with the basic HTML and CSS in **start.html**. Look inside the **body** tag and around line 18 you will see:

```

```

3. Note that it has an ID of **icon**. We are going to be using that ID to identify this element as a target of our TweenLite tweens.

Before we start animating, we'll need to link to the GSAP JavaScript files, which reside in a library on an external website. This website is part of a **Content Delivery Network (CDN)**, since there are multiple locations on the web where these libraries exist. In theory, if one site is unavailable, you can always get the files from another site (much like a mirror site).

4. Notice that there are two sets of **script** tags in the file—one for the CDN links and one for the tween you'll add soon. Around line 20, find the following comment:

```
<!-- load Content Delivery Network (CDN) scripts -->
```

5. Below that comment, add the following bold code to load the scripts we need:

```
<!-- load Content Delivery Network (CDN) scripts -->  
<script src="https://cdnjs.cloudflare.com/ajax/libs/gsap/1.19.0/plugins/CSSPlugin.min.js">  
</script>  
<script src="https://cdnjs.cloudflare.com/ajax/libs/gsap/1.19.0/easing/EasePack.min.js">  
</script>  
<script src="https://cdnjs.cloudflare.com/ajax/libs/gsap/1.19.0/TweenLite.min.js">  
</script>
```

These 3 lines of code are used to load TweenLite.js, CSSPlugin.js, and EasePack.js. This lightweight collection of libraries is a very common setup.

TweenLite is GSAP's basic toolset, good for most common animations.

CSSPlugin enables TweenLite to animate almost any CSS-related property. This includes the obvious properties (width, height, margin, padding, top, left) and more interesting ones like transforms (rotation, scaleX, scaleY, skewX, skewY, x, y, rotationX, and rotationY), colors, opacity, and lots more.

EasePack adds more advanced eases which enables some sophisticated animation behavior.

6. Save your file.

Anatomy of a TweenLite Tween

1. In order to get up and running with any animation we need to know:

- What object is being animated.
- How long the animation will last.
- Which properties that are being animated and the end values of those properties.

2. All these details of the animation are going to be passed into TweenLite's **to()** function as (*do not type this code—it's just an example*):

```
TweenLite.to( target:Object, duration:Number, vars:Object );
```

- target:** The object or objects that are being tweened
- duration:** How long (in seconds by default) our animation will run
- vars:** A JavaScript object containing **property:value** pairs and special properties like eases, callbacks, and delays.

The **TweenLite.to()** API docs: greensock.com/docs/#/HTML5/GSAP/TweenLite/to/ contain more details, but we'll walk through it step-by-step below.

Using the TweenLite.to() method

1. Let's first create a variable for the element we want to tween. In the script tag under the **add your own script** comment, add the following code as shown in bold:

```
<!-- add your own script -->
<script>
    var icon = document.getElementById("icon");
</script>
```

Our variable is called **icon** because that is the ID of the image we will tween.

Now that we have selected the item we want to tween, let's tween it!

2. After the line of code you just wrote, hit **Enter** (Windows) or **Return** (Mac) three times to create some space.
3. In the second line of whitespace, type the following method shown in bold:

```
    var icon = document.getElementById("icon");

    TweenLite.to();

</script>
```

4. Input the following bold parameters to the TweenLite.to() method:

```
TweenLite.to(icon, 2, {opacity:0});
```

5. The TweenLite.to() method takes three parameters. Let's break that down:

- The first parameter in the `TweenLite.to()` method must always be the **target** (the object(s) you want to tween), in this case **icon**.
- The second parameter is always the **duration** over which the animation takes place, in this case **2** seconds.
- The third parameter, the **vars object { }**, is an object defining the end values of each property that should be tweened. In this example the **opacity** property is being tweened to a value of **0**.

The **vars object { }** can contain multiple tweenable properties as well as special properties like callbacks, eases, delays and more. We'll discuss those as time permits.

6. Save the file by hitting **Ctrl-S** (Windows) or **Cmd-S** (Mac).

7. Preview **start.html** in a web browser.

8. Notice that the opaque icon takes two seconds to fade out and become completely transparent. The icon is shown mid-fade in the screenshot below:



9. If you need to see the animation again, remember that you can hit **F5** (Windows) or **Cmd-R** (Mac) to reload the browser.

10. We recommend leaving **start.html** open in your browser as you work, so you can simply reload the page to see the changes you make in your code.

Tweening Multiple Properties

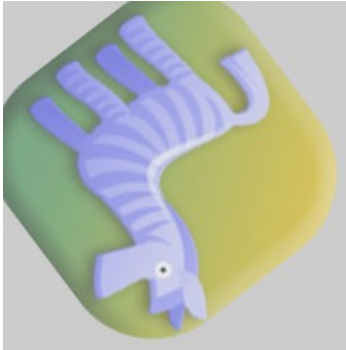
You can input any number of CSS properties within the curly braces (within reason). Let's keep the opacity tween and add a rotation tween.

1. Return to your code editor and type the following bold code. Remember to add a comma to separate the properties!

```
TweenLite.to(icon, 2, {opacity:0, rotation:360});
```

NOTE: The order in which properties are listed doesn't matter.

2. Let's see what this looks like now. Save the file and preview the page in a browser.
3. Over the course of two seconds, the object tweens to an opacity of zero AND rotates 360°. Spiffy!



4. Return to your code editor.
5. Delete the **opacity** property so that the TweenLite.to() method looks like this:

```
TweenLite.to(icon, 2, {rotation:360});
```

This will make it easier to see some of the changes to the animation we'll try next.

6. Let's make the icon slide to the right, as seen in the finished file. To do that, we want to animate the **left** property. Type the bold code as shown below:

```
TweenLite.to(icon, 2, {rotation:360, left:400});
```

7. Save the file and preview the page in a browser.

While the object is rotating, the left position isn't budging. This is because the icon element doesn't have a CSS position property.

8. Return to your code editor.
9. In order to tween a positional property of an element, that element MUST have a CSS property of **absolute**, **relative**, or **fixed**. Around line 12, add the following bold code to the CSS rule for **#icon**:

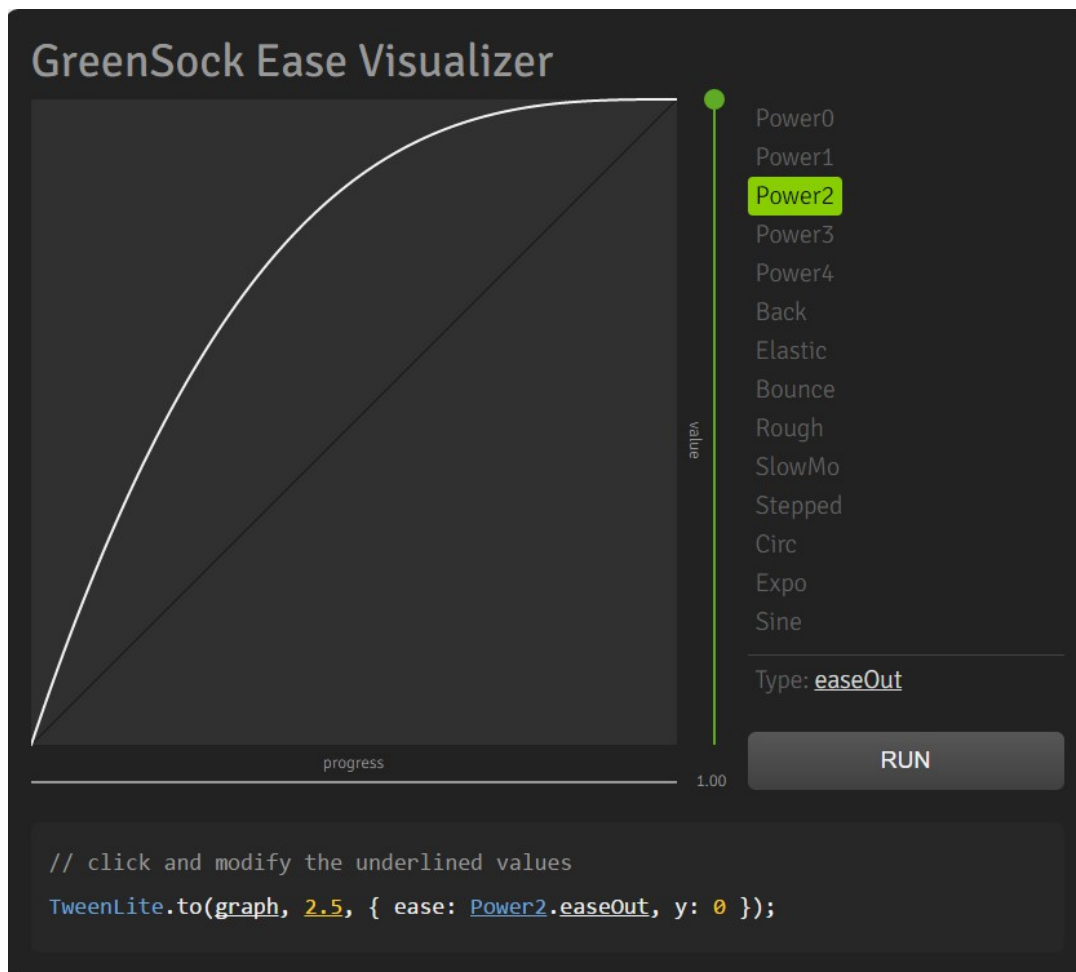
```
#icon {  
    position: absolute;  
}
```

10. Save the file and preview the page in a browser. The icon is rotating and moving to the right, just like we intended. Awesome!

Easing

An ease alters the rate of change during a tween, giving the movement a different feel. There are many different eases we can add to the tween. TweenLite includes eases like the Power series, Quad, Cubic, and more. The EasePack file adds more advanced easing options to your repertoire.

1. To get an idea of the eases that are available in GSAP, check out the Ease Visualizer tool on GreenSock's website: greensock.com/ease-visualizer.
2. You will see the interface below. There is a menu of eases on the right which allows you to select an ease and preview its animation.



3. Below the ease graph there is a line of code that updates based on your selection. Notice that you can click on any of the **underlined text** in the code preview to configure the ease further.

NOTE: There is also a short video on the Ease Visualizer page that will explain how it works in more detail.

4. Return to your code editor. Let's try out the `Bounce.easeOut` ease.
5. After the `left` property type a comma, then type the bold ease as shown below:

```
TweenLite.to(icon, 2, {rotation:360, left:400, ease:Bounce.easeOut});
```

The name **Bounce.easeOut** is pretty straightforward: the element will bounce at the end of the tween (as signified by **Out**).

6. Save the file and preview the page in a browser. Notice the bit of bouncing motion at the end of the tween.
7. Let's experiment with a different ease. Back in the code, delete the word **Bounce**, and in its place type the following bold code:

```
TweenLite.to(icon, 2, {rotation:360, left:400, ease:Back.easeOut});
```

8. Save the file and preview the page in a browser.

As you can see with the icon, the **Back** ease overshoots the end values before settling back into its final position.

9. If you're one of the people who zones out when a page is loading, this tween is too easy to miss. We don't want the animation to start at the same time the page loads. Return to your code editor.

10. To add a **delay** of one second, type the bold code below.

```
TweenLite.to(icon, 2, {rotation:360, left:400, ease:Back.easeOut, delay:1});
```

11. Save the file and preview the page in a browser. As expected, the animation starts a second after page loads.

If you have time, feel free to experiment with other eases!

Additional Notes on Easing

Eases are traditionally named after the mathematical equations that are used to generate their smooth curves. Unfortunately names like Quad, Cubic, and Quart do very little to help animators understand which ease is stronger than the next. GSAP's **Power** ease names, on the other hand, make it very easy for animators to experiment with and adjust the strength of the ease they are using. Start with **Power1** and work your way up to **Power4**.

Power0: No easing, same as `Linear.easeNone`

Power1: Same as Quad

Power2: Same as Cubic

Power3: Same as Quart

Power4: Same as Quint

GSAP's Ease Pack (included in TweenMax.js or separately in **easing/EasePack.js**) additionally includes:

- Special effects eases like Back, Bounce, and Elastic
- More legacy eases like Circ, Sine, and Quad
- Proprietary eases like SlowMo and RoughEase