

# Chapter 88: Selection API

Parameter	Details
startOffset	If the node is a Text node, it is the number of characters from the beginning of startNode to where the range begins. Otherwise, it is the number of child nodes between the beginning of startNode to where the range begins.
endOffset	If the node is a Text node, it is the number of characters from the beginning of startNode to where the range ends. Otherwise, it is the number of child nodes between the beginning of startNode to where the range ends.

## Section 88.1: Get the text of the selection

```
let sel = document.getSelection();
let text = sel.toString();
console.log(text); // logs what the user selected
```

Alternatively, since the `toString` member function is called automatically by some functions when converting the object to a string, you don't always have to call it yourself.

```
console.log(document.getSelection());
```

## Section 88.2: Deselect everything that is selected

```
let sel = document.getSelection();
sel.removeAllRanges();
```

## Section 88.3: Select the contents of an element

```
let sel = document.getSelection();

let myNode = document.getElementById('element-to-select');

let range = document.createRange();
range.selectNodeContents(myNode);

sel.addRange(range);
```

It may be necessary to first remove all the ranges of the previous selection, as most browsers don't support multiple ranges.