



# jQuery | closest() with Examples

Last Updated : 03 Aug, 2021

The **closest()** is an inbuilt method in jQuery that returns the first ancestor of the selected element in the DOM tree. This method traverse upwards from the current element in the search of first ancestor of the element. Document Object Model (DOM) is a World Wide Web Consortium standard. This defines for accessing elements in the DOM tree.

## Syntax:

```
$(selector).closest(para1, para2);
```

**Parameter:** It accepts two parameters which are specified below-

- **para1:** This specifies the element to narrate the ancestor search in the DOM tree.
- **para2:** This is an optional parameter DOM element within which a matching element being found.

**Return Value:** It returns the first ancestor for the selected element.

## jQuery code to show the working of closest() method:

### Code #1:

In the below code, optional parameter is not passed.

```
<html>
```

```
<head>
```

```
<style>
```

```
.main * {  
    display: block;
```

We use cookies to ensure you have the best browsing experience on our website. By using our site, you acknowledge that you have read and understood our [Cookie Policy](#) & [Privacy Policy](#).

**Got It !**

# Start Your Coding Journey Now!

[Login](#)
[Register](#)

```

        jquery/3.3.1/jquery.min.js"></script>
<script>
<!-- here is the script code for performing the method -->
$(document).ready(function() {
    $("span").closest("ul").css({
        "color": "green",
        "border": "2px solid green"
    });
});
</script>
</head>

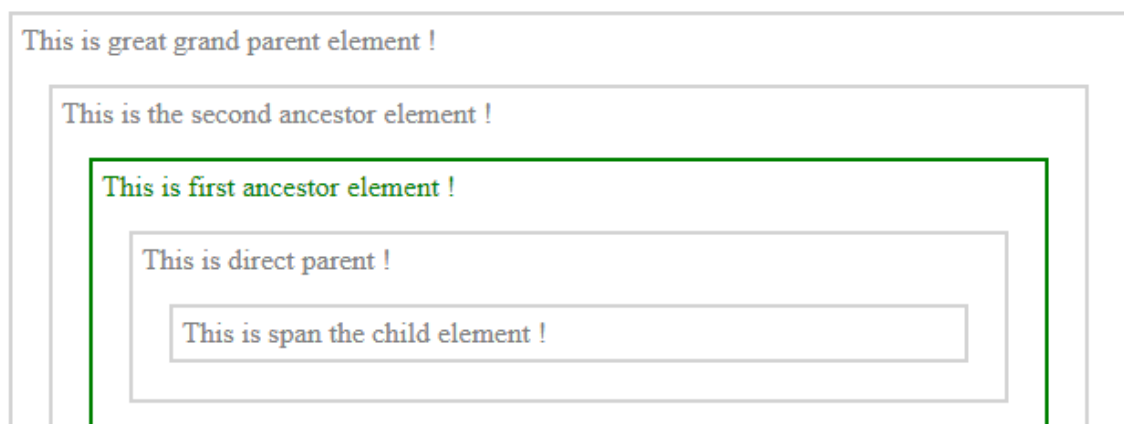
<body class="main">
    This is great-great grand parent element !
    <div style="width:600px;">
        This is great grand parent element !
        <ul>
            This is the second ancestor element !
            <ul>
                <!-- This element will be selected -->
                This is first ancestor element !
                <li>This is direct parent !
                <span>This is span the child element !</span>
                </li>
            </ul>
        </ul>
    </div>
</body>

</html>

```

## Output:

This is great-great grand parent element !



We use cookies to ensure you have the best browsing experience on our website. By using our site, you acknowledge that you have read and understood our [Cookie Policy](#) & [Privacy Policy](#).

**Got It !**

# Start Your Coding Journey Now!

[Login](#)
[Register](#)

In the below code, optional parameter is passed to the method.

```
<html>

<head>
  <style>
    .main * {
      display: block;
      border: 2px solid lightgrey;
      color: grey;
      padding: 5px;
      margin: 15px;
    }
  </style>
  <script src="https://ajax.googleapis.com/ajax/libs/
    jquery/3.3.1/jquery.min.js"></script>
  <script>
    $(document).ready(function() {
      <!--Here among dom id first ancestor will select -->
      var item = document.getElementById("dom");
      $("li").closest("ul", item).css({
        "color": "green",
        "border": "2px solid green"
      });
    });
  </script>
</head>

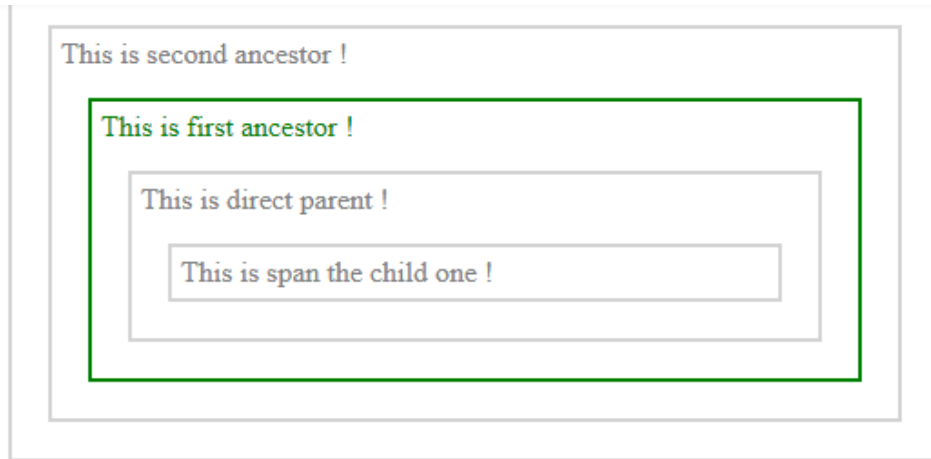
<body class="main">
  This is great-great-grandparent !
  <div style="width:500px;">
    div (great-grandparent)
    <ul id="dom">
      This is second ancestor !
      <ul id="dom">
        This is first ancestor !
        <li>This is direct parent !
        <span>This is span the child one !</span>
        </li>
      </ul>
    </ul>
  </div>
</body>

</html>
```

We use cookies to ensure you have the best browsing experience on our website. By using our site, you acknowledge that you have read and understood our [Cookie Policy](#) & [Privacy Policy](#).

**Got It !**

## Start Your Coding Journey Now!

[Login](#)[Register](#)

jQuery is an open source JavaScript library that simplifies the interactions between an HTML/CSS document, It is widely famous with it's philosophy of **"Write less, do more"**.

You can learn jQuery from the ground up by following this [jQuery Tutorial](#) and [jQuery Examples](#).

Like 0

[Previous](#)[Next](#)

## RECOMMENDED ARTICLES

Page : [1](#) [2](#) [3](#)

### 01 Difference between find() and closest() in jQuery

31 Aug 21

### 05 jQuery | jQuery.fx.interval Property with example

20 Feb 19

We use cookies to ensure you have the best browsing experience on our website. By using our site, you acknowledge that you have read and understood our [Cookie Policy](#) & [Privacy Policy](#).

**Got It !**

## Start Your Coding Journey Now!

[Login](#)[Register](#)

**03** Closest ancestor element that has a specific class in JavaScript  
02, Jun 20

**07** jQuery | jQuery.support Property  
20, Feb 19

**04** Javascript Program to Find closest number in array  
23, Dec 21

**08** jQuery | jquery Property  
27, Feb 19

### Article Contributed By :



**kundankumarjha**  
@kundankumarjha

### Vote for difficulty

[Easy](#)[Normal](#)[Medium](#)[Hard](#)[Expert](#)

Article Tags : [jQuery-Traversing](#), [JavaScript](#), [jQuery](#)

[Improve Article](#)[Report Issue](#)

Writing code in comment? Please use [ide.geeksforgeeks.org](https://ide.geeksforgeeks.org), generate link and share the link here.

We use cookies to ensure you have the best browsing experience on our website. By using our site, you acknowledge that you have read and understood our [Cookie Policy](#) & [Privacy Policy](#).

**Got It !**

# Start Your Coding Journey Now!

[Login](#)[Register](#)[feedback@geekstorgeeks.org](mailto:feedback@geekstorgeeks.org)

## Company

[About Us](#)  
[Careers](#)  
[In Media](#)  
[Contact Us](#)  
[Privacy Policy](#)  
[Copyright Policy](#)

## News

[Top News](#)  
[Technology](#)  
[Work & Career](#)  
[Business](#)  
[Finance](#)  
[Lifestyle](#)  
[Knowledge](#)

## Web Development

[Web Tutorials](#)  
[Django Tutorial](#)  
[HTML](#)  
[JavaScript](#)  
[Bootstrap](#)  
[ReactJS](#)  
[NodeJS](#)

## Learn

[Algorithms](#)  
[Data Structures](#)  
[SDE Cheat Sheet](#)  
[Machine learning](#)  
[CS Subjects](#)  
[Video Tutorials](#)  
[Courses](#)

## Languages

[Python](#)  
[Java](#)  
[CPP](#)  
[Golang](#)  
[C#](#)  
[SQL](#)  
[Kotlin](#)

## Contribute

[Write an Article](#)  
[Improve an Article](#)  
[Pick Topics to Write](#)  
[Write Interview Experience](#)  
[Internships](#)  
[Video Internship](#)

We use cookies to ensure you have the best browsing experience on our website. By using our site, you acknowledge that you have read and understood our [Cookie Policy](#) & [Privacy Policy](#).

**Got It !**