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## JavaScript How To

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The HTML `<script>` tag is used to insert a JavaScript into an HTML page.

### Writing to The HTML Document

The example below writes a `<p>` element with current date information to the HTML document:

Example

```
<html>
<body>

<h1>My First Web Page</h1>

<script type="text/javascript">
document.write("<p>" + Date() + "</p>");
</script>

</body>
</html>
```

Try it yourself »

**Note:** Try to avoid using `document.write()` in real life JavaScript code. The entire HTML page will be overwritten if `document.write()` is used inside a function, or after the page is loaded. However, `document.write()` is an easy way to demonstrate JavaScript output in a tutorial.

### Changing HTML Elements

The example below writes the current date into an existing `<p>` element:

Example

```
<html>
<body>

<h1>My First Web Page</h1>

<p id="demo"></p>

<script type="text/javascript">
document.getElementById("demo").innerHTML=Date();
</script>

</body>
</html>
```

Try it yourself »

**Note:** To manipulate HTML elements JavaScript uses the DOM method **`getElementById()`**. This method accesses the element with the specified id.

### Examples Explained

To insert a JavaScript into an HTML page, use the `<script>` tag.

Inside the `<script>` tag use the `type` attribute to define the scripting language.

The `<script>` and `</script>` tells where the JavaScript starts and ends:

```
<html>
<body>
<h1>My First Web Page</h1>

<p id="demo">This is a paragraph.</p>

<script type="text/javascript">
... some JavaScript code ...
</script>

</body>
</html>
```

The lines between the `<script>` and `</script>` contain the JavaScript and are executed by the browser.

In this case the browser will replace the content of the HTML element with `id="demo"`, with the current date:

```
<html>
<body>
<h1>My First Web Page</h1>

<p id="demo">This is a paragraph.</p>

<script type="text/javascript">
document.getElementById("demo").innerHTML=Date();
</script>

</body>
</html>
```

Without the `<script>` tag(s), the browser will treat `"document.getElementById("demo").innerHTML=Date();"` as pure text and just write it to the page: [Try it yourself](#)

### Some Browsers do Not Support JavaScript

Browsers that do not support JavaScript, will display JavaScript as page content.

To prevent them from doing this, and as a part of the JavaScript standard, the HTML comment tag should be used to "hide" the JavaScript.

Just add an HTML comment tag `<!--` before the first JavaScript statement, and a `-->` (end of comment) after the last JavaScript statement, like this:

```
<html>
<body>
<script type="text/javascript">
<!--
document.getElementById("demo").innerHTML=Date();
//-->
</script>
</body>
</html>
```

The two forward slashes at the end of comment line (`//`) is the JavaScript comment symbol. This prevents JavaScript from executing the `-->` tag.

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