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JavaScript Syntax

JavaScript can be implemented using JavaScript statements that are placed within the `<script>...` `</script>` HTML tags in a web page.

You can place the `<script>` tags, containing your JavaScript, anywhere within your web page, but it is normally recommended that you should keep it within the `<head>` tags.

The `<script>` tag alerts the browser program to **start interpreting** all the text between these tags as a **script**. A simple syntax of your JavaScript will appear as follows.

```
<script ...>  
    JavaScript code  
</script>
```

The script tag takes two important **attributes** –

Language – This attribute specifies what scripting language you are using. Typically, its value will be javascript. Although recent versions of HTML (and XHTML, its successor) have phased out the use of this attribute.

Type – This attribute is what is now recommended to indicate the scripting language in use and its value should be set to "text/javascript".

```
<script language = "javascript" type = "text/javascript">  
    JavaScript code  
</script>
```

Your First JavaScript Code

```
<html>  
<body>  
  <script language = "javascript" type = "text/javascript">  
    <!--  
      document.write("Hello World!")  
    //-->  
  </script>  
</body>  
</html>
```

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Whitespace and Line Breaks

JavaScript ignores spaces, tabs, and newlines that appear in JavaScript programs. You can use spaces, tabs, and newlines freely in your program and you are free to format and indent your programs in a neat and consistent way that makes the code easy to read and understand.

Semicolons are Optional

```
<script language = "javascript" type = "text/javascript">
  <!--
    var1 = 10
    var2 = 20
  //-->
</script>
```

But when formatted in a single line as follows, you must use semicolons –

```
<script language = "javascript" type = "text/javascript">
  <!--
    var1 = 10; var2 = 20;
  //-->
</script>
```

Case Sensitivity

JavaScript is a case-sensitive language. This means that the language keywords, variables, function names, and any other identifiers must always be typed with a consistent capitalization of letters.

So the identifiers Time and TIME will convey different meanings in JavaScript.

NOTE – Care should be taken while writing variable and function names in JavaScript.

Comments in JavaScript

JavaScript supports both C-style and C++-style comments, Thus –

Any text between a // and the end of a line is treated as a comment and is ignored by JavaScript.

Any text between the characters /* and */ is treated as a comment. This may span multiple lines.

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JavaScript also recognizes the HTML comment opening sequence <!--. JavaScript treats this as a single-line comment, just as it does the // comment.

The HTML comment closing sequence --> is not recognized by JavaScript so it should be written as //-->.

```
<script language = "javascript" type = "text/javascript">
  <!--
    // This is a comment. It is similar to comments in C++

    /*
     * This is a multi-line comment in JavaScript
     * It is very similar to comments in C Programming
     */
    //-->
</script>
```