**.html()**

The .html() function from jQuery is both a getter and a setter function:

* Get: Get the HTML contents of the first element in the set of matched elements
* Set: Set the HTML contents of every matched element.

**GET**

.html() *Returns:*[*String*](http://api.jquery.com/Types/#String)

**Description:***Get the HTML contents of the first element in the set of matched elements.*

* + This method does not accept any arguments.

In an HTML document, .html() can be used to get the contents of any element. If the selector expression matches more than one element, only the first match will have its HTML content returned. Consider this code:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | $( "div.demo-container" ).html(); |

In order for the following <div>'s content to be retrieved, it would have to be the first one with class="demo-container"in the document:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2  3 | <div class="demo-container">  <div class="demo-box">Demonstration Box</div>  </div> |

The result would look like this:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | <div class="demo-box">Demonstration Box</div> |

This method uses the browser's innerHTML property. Some browsers may not return HTML that exactly replicates the HTML source in an original document. For example, Internet Explorer sometimes leaves off the quotes around attribute values if they contain only alphanumeric characters.

**SET**

.html( htmlString ) *Returns: jQuery*

* [**.html( htmlString )**](http://api.jquery.com/html/#html-htmlString)
  + **htmlString**

Type: [htmlString](http://api.jquery.com/Types/#htmlString)

A string of HTML to set as the content of each matched element.

* **version added:**[**1.4**](http://api.jquery.com/category/version/1.4/)[**.html( function )**](http://api.jquery.com/html/#html-function)
  + **function**

Type: [Function](http://api.jquery.com/Types/#Function)( [Integer](http://api.jquery.com/Types/#Integer) index, [htmlString](http://api.jquery.com/Types/#htmlString) oldhtml ) => [htmlString](http://api.jquery.com/Types/#htmlString)

A function returning the HTML content to set. Receives the index position of the element in the set and the old HTML value as arguments. jQuery empties the element before calling the function; use the oldhtml argument to reference the previous content. Within the function, this refers to the current element in the set.

When .html() is used to set an element's content, any content that was in that element is completely replaced by the new content. Additionally, jQuery removes other constructs such as data and event handlers from child elements before replacing those elements with the new content.

Consider the following HTML:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2  3 | <div class="demo-container">  <div class="demo-box">Demonstration Box</div>  </div> |

The content of <div class="demo-container"> can be set like this:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2 | $( "div.demo-container" )  .html( "<p>All new content. <em>You bet!</em></p>" ); |

That line of code will replace everything inside <div class="demo-container">:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2  3 | <div class="demo-container">  <p>All new content. <em>You bet!</em></p>  </div> |

As of jQuery 1.4, the .html() method allows the HTML content to be set by passing in a function.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2  3  4 | $( "div.demo-container" ).html(**function**() {  **var** emphasis = "<em>" + $( "p" ).length + " paragraphs!</em>";  **return** "<p>All new content for " + emphasis + "</p>";  }); |

Given a document with six paragraphs, this example will set the HTML of <div class="demo-container"> to <p>All new content for <em>6 paragraphs!</em></p>.

This method uses the browser's innerHTML property. Some browsers may not generate a DOM that exactly replicates the HTML source provided. For example, Internet Explorer prior to version 8 will convert all href properties on links to absolute URLs, and Internet Explorer prior to version 9 will not correctly handle HTML5 elements without the addition of a separate [compatibility layer](http://code.google.com/p/html5shiv/).