



Manipulating the DOM

Web Development I

What is the “DOM”?

- Abbreviation for the Document Object Model
- Each web page is a “document”
- The DOM is an in memory, tree structure representation, of that document (or web page)
- Enables the HTML structure to be easily accessed by programming languages
- The browser itself uses it to apply styling and other information to the correct elements as it renders a page
- Developers like you can manipulate the DOM with JavaScript AFTER the page has been rendered.





```
<!doctype html>
<html lang="en-US">
  <head>
    <meta charset="utf-8" />
    <title>Simple DOM example</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    <section>
      
      <p>
        Here we will add a link to the
        <a href="https://www.mozilla.org/">Mozilla homepage</a>
      </p>
    </section>
  </body>
</html>
```

The DOM ➔

← The HTML

```
DOCTYPE: html
HTML
  HEAD
    #text:
    META charset="utf-8"
    #text:
    TITLE
      #text: Simple DOM example
    #text:
  BODY
    #text:
    SECTION
      #text:
      IMG src="dinosaur.png" alt="A red Tyrannosaurus Rex: A two legged dinosaur standing
upright like a human, with small arms, and a large head with lots of sharp teeth."
      #text:
      P
        #text: Here we will add a link to the
        A href="https://www.mozilla.org/"
          #text: Mozilla homepage
        #text:
      #text:
```

<https://software.hixie.ch/utilities/js/live-dom-viewer/>

Live DOM Viewer

Markup to test ([permalink](#), [save](#), [upload](#), [download](#), [hide](#)):

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
...
...
```

DOM view ([hide](#), [refresh](#)):

```
- DOCTYPE: html
  HTML
    - HEAD
    - BODY
      - #text: ...
```

Rendered view: ([hide](#)):

```
...
```

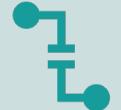
innerHTML view: ([show](#), [refresh](#)):

Log: ([hide](#)):

```
rendering mode: CSS1Compat
document has no title
```

This script puts a function `w(s)` into the global scope of the test page, where `s` is a string or object to output to the log.

► Some files are available for testing purposes, notably "image" is an image.



Each entry in the tree is called a node.



The diagram shows that some nodes represent elements (identified as HTML, HEAD, META and so on) and others represent text (identified as #text).



There are [other types of nodes](#) as well, but these are the main ones you'll encounter.

```
DOCTYPE: html
HTML
  HEAD
    #text:
    META charset="utf-8"
    #text:
    TITLE
      #text: Simple DOM example
    #text:
  #text:
  BODY
    #text:
    SECTION
      #text:
      IMG src="dinosaur.png" alt="A red Tyrannosaurus Rex: A two legged dinosaur standing upright like a human, with small arms, and a large head with lots of sharp teeth."
      #text:
      P
        #text: Here we will add a link to the
        A href="https://www.mozilla.org/"
          #text: Mozilla homepage
        #text:
      #text:
```

- Nodes are also referred to by their position in the tree relative to other nodes:
- **Root node:** The top node in the tree, which in the case of HTML is always the HTML node (other markup vocabularies like SVG and custom XML will have different root elements).
- **Child node:** A node directly inside another node. For example, IMG is a child of SECTION in the example.

```
DOCTYPE: html
└── HTML
    ├── HEAD
    │   ├── #text:
    │   ├── META charset="utf-8"
    │   ├── #text:
    │   ├── TITLE
    │   │   └── #text: Simple DOM example
    │   ├── #text:
    │   └── #text:
    └── BODY
        ├── #text:
        ├── SECTION
        │   ├── #text:
        │   ├── IMG src="dinosaur.png" alt="A red Tyrannosaurus Rex: A two legged dinosaur standing upright like a human, with small arms, and a large head with lots of sharp teeth."
        │   ├── #text:
        │   ├── P
        │   │   ├── #text: Here we will add a link to the
        │   │   └── A href="https://www.mozilla.org/"
        │   │       └── #text: Mozilla homepage
        │   └── #text:
        └── #text:
```

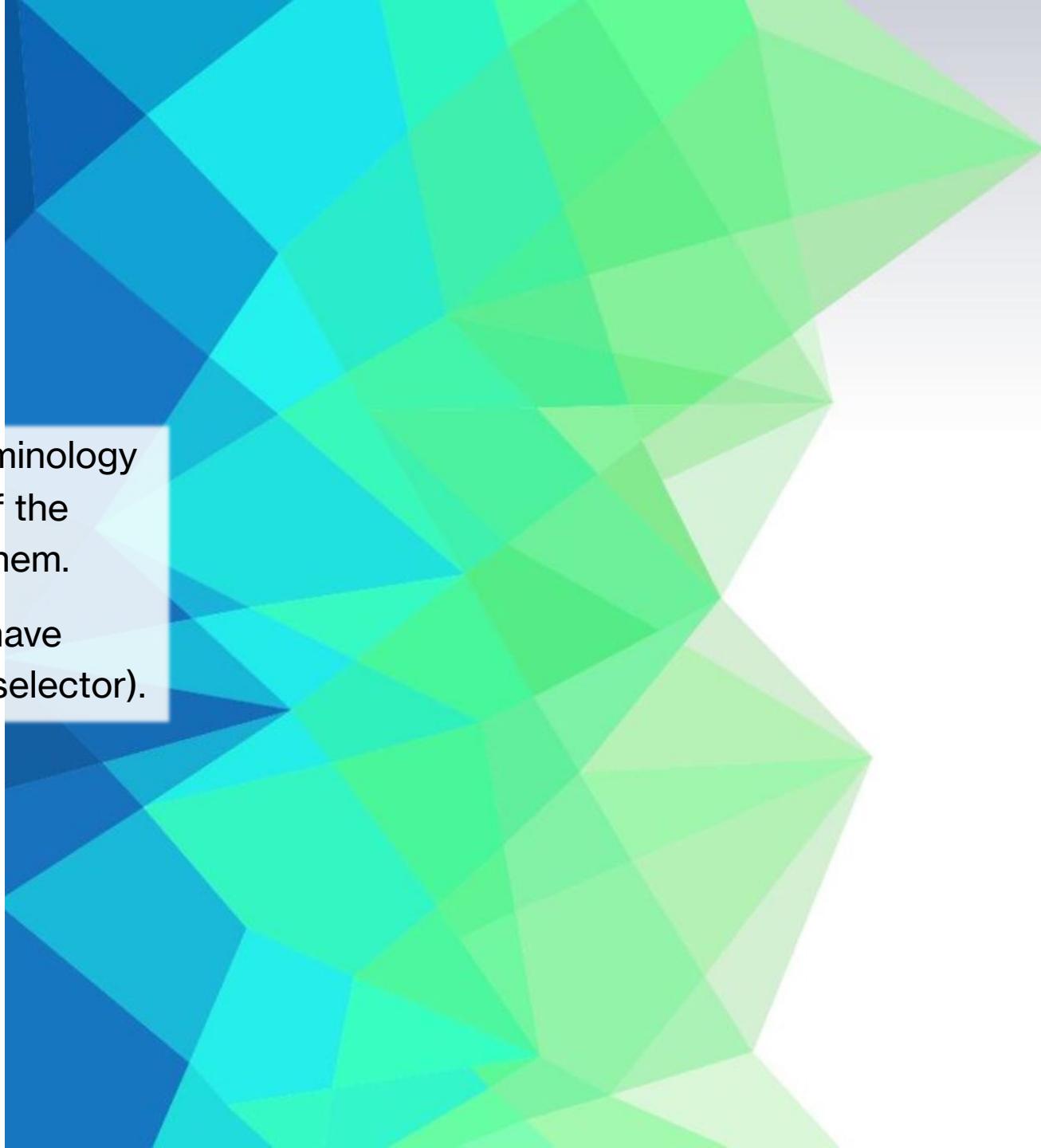
- **Descendant node:** A node anywhere inside another node. For example, IMG is a child of SECTION in the example, and it is also a descendant. IMG is not a child of BODY, as it is two levels below it in the tree, but it is a descendant of BODY.
- **Parent node:** A node which has another node inside it. For example, BODY is the parent node of SECTION in the example.
- **Sibling nodes:** Nodes that sit on the same level in the DOM tree. For example, IMG and P are siblings in the example.

```
DOCTYPE: html
HTML
  HEAD
    #text:
    META charset="utf-8"
    #text:
    TITLE
      #text: Simple DOM example
    #text:
    #text:
    BODY
      #text:
      SECTION
        #text:
        IMG src="dinosaur.png" alt="A red Tyrannosaurus Rex: A two legged dinosaur standing upright like a human, with small arms, and a large head with lots of sharp teeth."
        #text:
        P
          #text: Here we will add a link to the
          A href="https://www.mozilla.org/"
            #text: Mozilla homepage
        #text:
        #text:
```

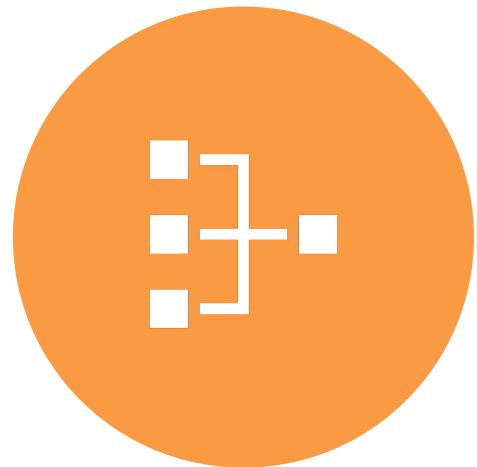
Top Tip

It is useful to familiarize yourself with this terminology before working with the DOM, as a number of the code terms you'll come across make use of them.

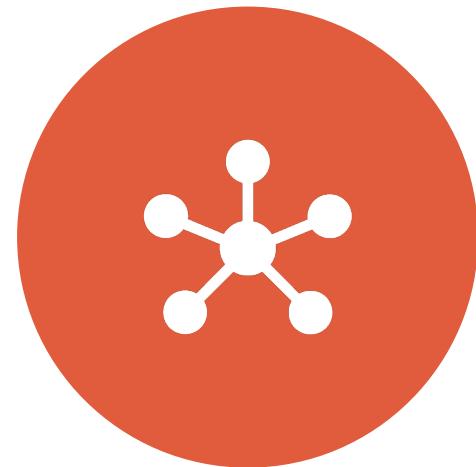
You may have also come across them if you have studied CSS (e.g. descendant selector, child selector).



Nodes and Elements



THE DOM **HAS MANY NODES**,
EVERYTHING IS A NODE.



AN ELEMENT **IS A NODE**



Confusingly

- Element ATTRIBUTES are also Nodes but
 - *Attr objects inherit the Node interface, but since they are not actually child nodes of the element they describe, the DOM does not consider them part of the document tree.*
 - *Thus, the Node attributes parentNode, previousSibling, and nextSibling have a null value for Attr objects.*
 - <https://www.w3.org/TR/2004/REC-DOM-Level-3-Core-20040407/core.html#ID-637646024>

But.....

For now, just remember that:

The DOM is made up of Elements

These Elements are Nodes in a Tree

If you want to dig deeper:

- <https://www.w3.org/TR/2004/REC-DOM-Level-3-Core-20040407/core.html#ID-637646024>
- <https://dom.spec.whatwg.org/#introduction-to-the-dom>
- <https://medium.com/front-end-weekly/what-is-the-difference-between-element-and-node-in-dom-56182fce7af1>.
- https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/Document_Object_Model/Introduction#fundamental_data_types



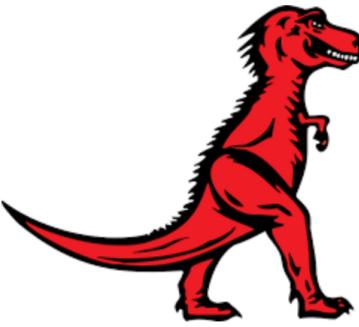


Here we will add a link to the [Mozilla homepage](https://www.mozilla.org/)

Elements | Console | Sources

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en-US">
  <head> ... </head>
  <body>
    <section>
      
    ...
    <p> == $0
      "Here we will add a link to the "
      <a href="https://www.mozilla.org/">
        </p>
      </section>
    </body>
  </html>
```

html body section p



Here we will add a link to the [Mozilla homepage](#)

The screenshot shows a browser window with the address bar pointing to `/Users/john/git/web-development-1/topic--hidden/talk-3-the-dom/dom-example.html`. The console tab is selected in the developer tools. The console output shows the following:

```
> document.  
< location  
activeElement  
addEventListener  
adoptedStyleSheets  
adoptNode  
alinkColor  
all  
anchors  
append  
appendChild
```

- The DOM is available via the “document” constant
- The “document” constant is available anywhere when running a script in the browser
- It is available in the “Global Scope”

Filter

Document Object Model

Document

Constructor

`Document()`

Instance properties

`activeElement`

`adoptedStyleSheets`

`alinkColor` 

`all` 

`anchors` 

`applets` 

`bgColor` 

`body`

`characterSet`

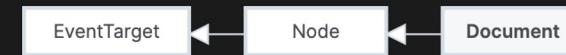
`childElementCount`

`children`

Document

The `Document` interface represents any web page loaded in the browser and serves as an entry point into the web page's content, which is the [DOM tree](#).

The DOM tree includes elements such as `<body>` and `<table>`, among [many others](#). It provides functionality globally to the document, like how to obtain the page's URL and create new elements in the document.



The `Document` interface describes the common properties and methods for any kind of document. Depending on the document's type (e.g. [HTML](#), [XML](#), SVG, ...), a larger API is available: HTML documents, served with the "text/html" content type, also implement the [HTMLDocument](#) interface, whereas XML and SVG documents implement the [XMLDocument](#) interface.

Constructor

`Document()`

Creates a new `Document` object.

<https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/Document>

Instance properties

This interface also inherits from the [Node](#) and [EventTarget](#) interfaces.

[Document.activeElement](#) (Read only)

Returns the [Element](#) that currently has focus.

[Document.adoptedStyleSheets](#)

Add an array of constructed stylesheets to be used by the document. These stylesheets may also be shared with shadow DOM subtrees of the same document.

[Document.body](#)

Returns the [<body>](#) or [<frameset>](#) node of the current document.

[Document.characterSet](#) (Read only)

Returns the character set being used by the document.

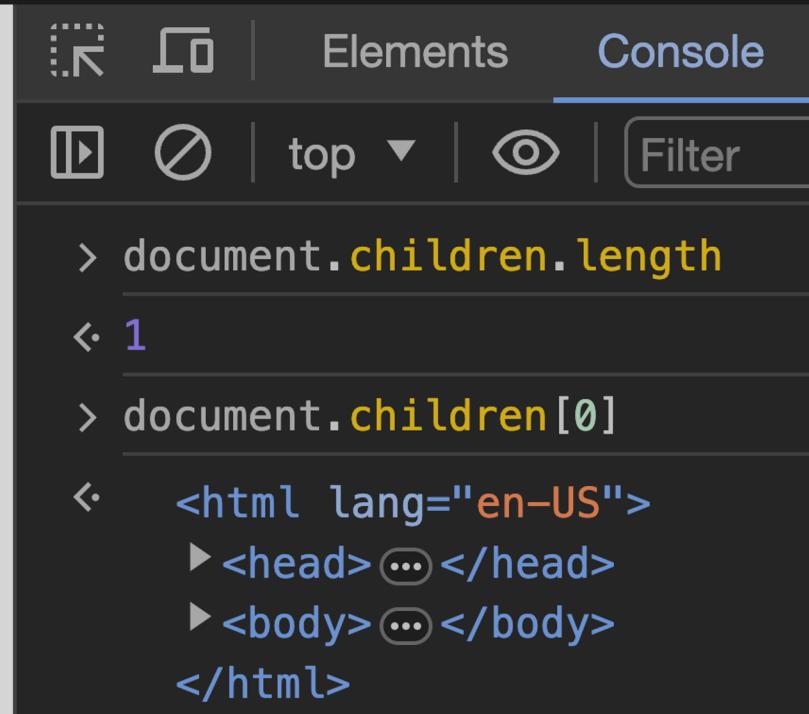
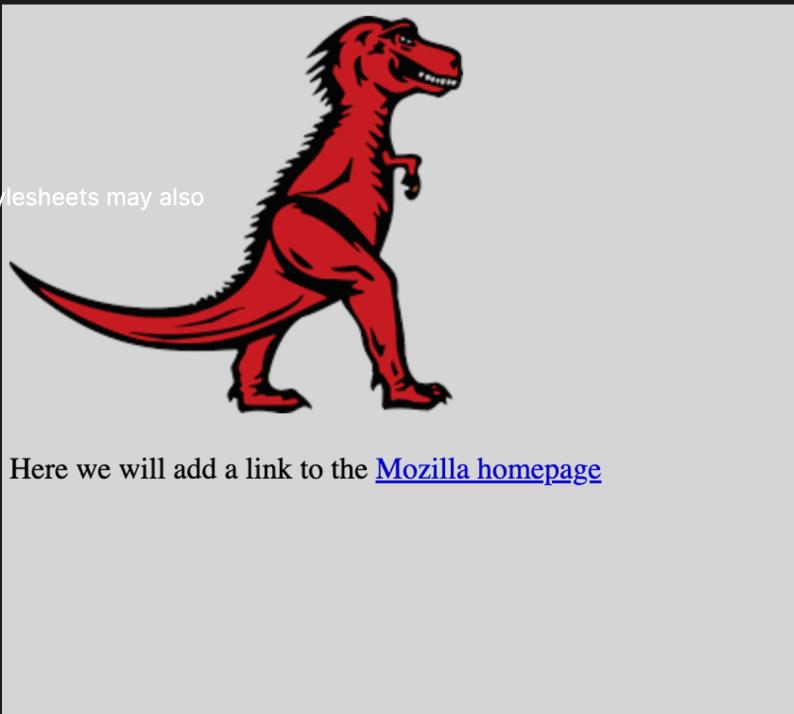
[Document.childElementCount](#) (Read only)

Returns the number of child elements of the current document.

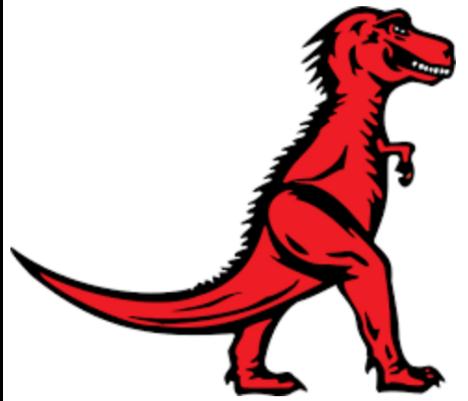
[Document.children](#) (Read only)

Returns the child elements of the current document.

[Document.compatMode](#) (Read only)



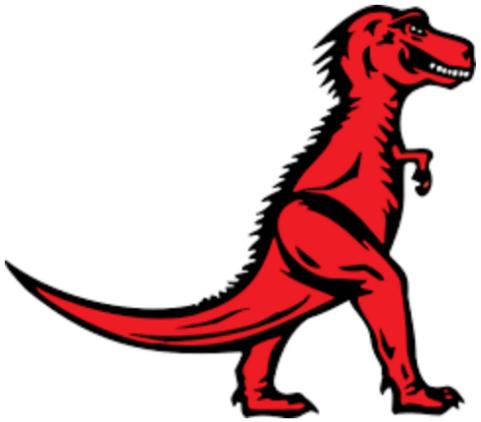
```
> document.children.length
<- 1
> document.children[0]
<- <html lang="en-US">
  > <head> ...
  > <body> ...
</html>
```



Here we will add a link to the [Mozilla Developer Network](#)

```
Elements Console Sources Network >
| top | Filter | Default levels ▾ |
```

```
> const link = document.querySelector("a");
< undefined
> link
<   <a href="https://www.mozilla.org/">Mozilla homepage</a>
> link.textContent = "Mozilla Developer Network";
< 'Mozilla Developer Network'
> link
<   <a href="https://www.mozilla.org/">Mozilla Developer Network</a>
> link.href = "https://developer.mozilla.org";
< 'https://developer.mozilla.org'
> link
<   <a href="https://developer.mozilla.org">Mozilla Developer Network</a>
> |
```



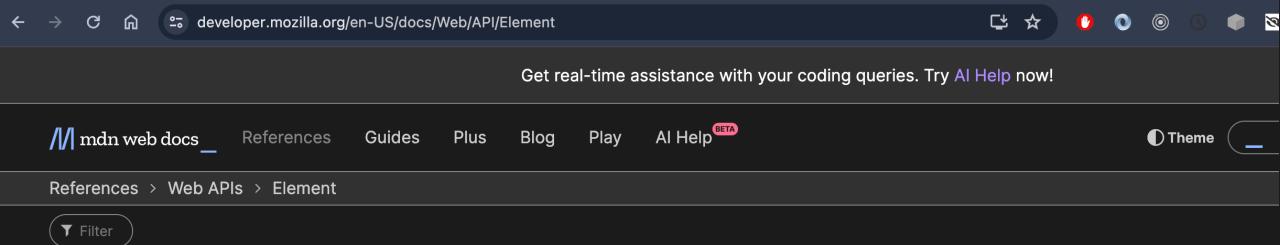
Here we will add a link to the [Mozilla homepage](https://www.mozilla.org/)

We hope you enjoyed.

```
Elements  Console  Sources
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en-US">
  <head>...</head>
  <body>
    <section>
      
    ...  <p> == $0
        "Here we will add a link to the "
        <a href="https://www.mozilla.org/">
        </p>
      </section>
    </body>
  </html>
```

```
Elements  Console  Sources  Network  >>
  top  □ Filter  Default level
> const section = document.querySelector("section");
< undefined
> section
< ▼ <section>
  
  > <p>...</p>
</section>
> const paragraph = document.createElement("p");
paragraph.textContent = "We hope you enjoyed.";
< 'We hope you enjoyed.'
> section.appendChild(paragraph)
<   <p>We hope you enjoyed.</p>
```

Element



The screenshot shows the MDN Web Docs page for the `Element` class. The page title is "Element". A sidebar on the left lists various properties under "Instance properties", including `ariaAtomic`, `ariaAutoComplete`, `ariaBusy`, `ariaChecked`, `ariaColCount`, `ariaColIndex`, `ariaColIndexText`, `ariaColSpan`, `ariaCurrent`, `ariaDescription`, `ariaDisabled`, `ariaExpanded`, `ariaHasPopup`, and `ariaHidden`. The main content area contains a diagram showing the inheritance chain: `EventTarget` is the parent of `Node`, which is the parent of `Element`. Below the diagram, the text states that `Element` is the most general base class from which all element objects inherit. It only has methods and properties common to all kinds of elements. More specific classes inherit from `Element`. It also notes that the `HTMLElement` interface is the base interface for HTML elements, and the `SVGElement` interface is the basis for all SVG elements, and the `MathMLElement` interface is the base interface for MathML elements. Most functionality is specified further down the class hierarchy. A callout box at the bottom right points to the `Element.assignedSlot` property.

Element

`Element` is the most general base class from which all element objects (i.e. objects that represent elements) in a `Document` inherit. It only has methods and properties common to all kinds of elements. More specific classes inherit from `Element`.

For example, the `HTMLElement` interface is the base interface for HTML elements. Similarly, the `SVGElement` interface is the basis for all SVG elements, and the `MathMLElement` interface is the base interface for MathML elements. Most functionality is specified further down the class hierarchy.

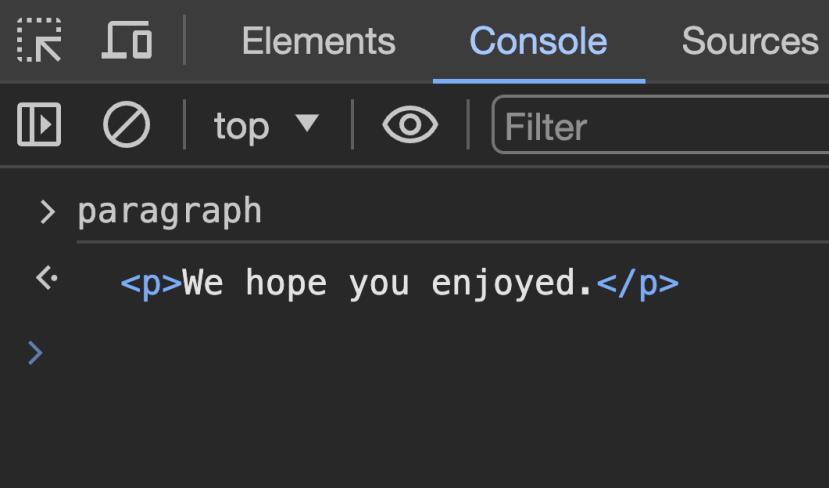
Languages outside the realm of the Web platform, like XUL through the `XULElement` interface, also implement `Element`.



Instance properties

`Element` inherits properties from its parent interface, `Node`, and by extension that interface's parent, `EventTarget`.

`Element.assignedSlot` (Read only)



The screenshot shows the browser developer tools Elements tab. The DOM tree on the left shows a single node, a `p` element with the text "We hope you enjoyed.". The status bar at the bottom indicates the node is a `p` element with dimensions 414x18.5. The browser address bar shows the URL `developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/Element`.

Instance properties

`Element` inherits properties from its parent interface, `Node`, and by extension that interface's parent, `EventTarget`.

`Element.assignedSlot` (Read only)

Returns a `HTMLSlotElement` representing the `<slot>` the node is inserted in.

`Element.attributes` (Read only)

Returns a `NamedNodeMap` object containing the assigned attributes of the corresponding HTML element.

`Element.childElementCount` (Read only)

Returns the number of child elements of this element.

`Element.children` (Read only)

Returns the child elements of this element.

prepend()

querySelector()

querySelectorAll()

releasePointerCapture()

remove()

removeAttribute()

removeAttributeNode()

removeAttributeNS()

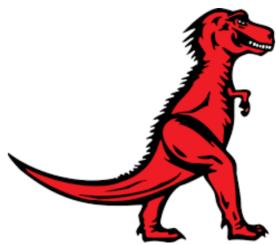
replaceChildren()

replaceWith()

requestFullscreen()

requestPointerLock()

scroll()

Here we will add a link to the [Mozilla homepage](#)

We hope you enjoyed.

Element: remove() method

The `Element.remove()` method removes the element from the DOM.

Syntax

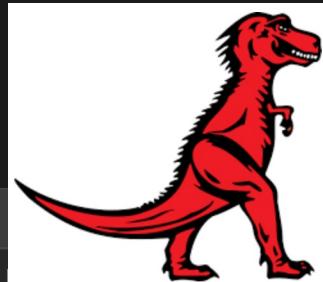
JS

`remove()`

Parameters

None.

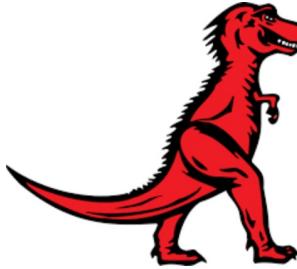
Return value

None (`undefined`).Here we will add a link to the [Mozilla homepage](#)

```
> paragraph
<- <p>We hope you enjoyed.</p>
> paragraph.remove
<- f
```

remove
removeAttribute
removeAttributeNode
removeAttributeNS
removeChild
removeEventListener

```
> paragraph
<- <p>We hope you enjoyed.</p>
> paragraph.remove()
<- undefined
```



Here we will add a link to the [Mozilla homepage](#)

```
Elements Console Sources Network >
Default levels ▾
> const img = document.querySelector("img")
<- undefined
> section.removeChild(img) //section has already been defined
```



Here we will add a link to the [Mozilla homepage](#)

```
Elements Console Sources Network > | ⚙ : X
Default levels ▾ | No Issues | ⚙
> const img = document.querySelector("img")
<- undefined
> section.removeChild(img) //section has already been defined
<- 
>
```

Recap

- We used the console to interact with the “document”
- We used “querySelector”, “querySelectorAll” and “getElementById”
- Augmented a link element via “link.href =”
 - `document.querySelector("a").href = "http://google.ie"`
- Used “document.createElement” to create an element
- Used “element.appendChild” to add an element to a section
- Used “element.removeChild” to remove an img
 - Could also use “element.remove()” for the element to remove itself



- So now we've seen how to manipulate the DOM
- In theory, you could now start a webpage with just HTML and build it from the JavaScript Console
- We've intentionally jumped straight into DOM manipulation while ignoring the semantics of JavaScript
- Over the next few sessions, we will formally introduce JavaScript
- For now, use the examples provided to get some comfort with the DOM