

IndexOf

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Synopsis

A powerful prototype for searching an array for a certain element.

Why

When working with arrays, there are going to be times when a coder needs to know if a certain element or item is in the array. For example, a coder may want to have a search field where a user may enter a search term to check whether that item exists or not.

Syntax

The syntax is very simple. The name of the array and `indexOf()` connected by a dot or period. Inside the parentheses you list the item you wish to search for within the array.

Advanced

The return value of `indexOf` is the index number identifying the location of the item within the array. If the item is not found in the array then the returned value is `-1`. If the item exists many times within the array then only the index number of the first occurrence within the array is returned.

Examples

```
1 // ----- Example 1 -----
2
3 var magic = [1,4,3,2,5,99];
4
5 magic.indexOf(4); // 1
6 magic.indexOf(99); // 5
7 magic.indexOf(6); // -1
8
9 // ----- Example 2 -----
10
11 var meatloaf = ["Dashboard", "two-thirds", "Dry Eye"];
12
13 var song = meatloaf.indexOf("Dry Eye");
14
15 // song is now 2
16
17 var other_song = meatloaf.indexOf("dashboard");
18
19 // other_song is equal to -1 because the search is case
   sensitive
20
21 // ----- Example 3 -----
22
23 var dream = ["clouds", "daydreaming", "sunshine", "toothfairy
   "];
24
25 var check = dream.indexOf("daydreaming");
26
27 if (check !== -1) {
28
29     console.log("We are daydreaming now");
30
31 } // End of If Statement
32
33 // ----- Example 4 -----
34
35 var dream = ["clouds", "daydreaming", "sunshine", "toothfairy
   "];
36
37 var check = dream.indexOf("daydreaming");
38
39 if (check >= 0) {
40
```

```

41     console.log("We are daydreaming now");
42
43 } // End of If Statement
44
45 // ----- Example 5 -----
46
47 var dream = ["clouds", "daydreaming", "sunshine", "toothfairy"];
48
49 var check = "daydreaming";
50
51 if (dream.indexOf(check) >= 0) {
52     console.log("We are daydreaming now");
53 } // End of If Statement
54
55 // ----- Example 6 -----
56
57 var numbers = [1,2,2,3,3,3];
58
59 numbers.indexOf(2); // 1
60 numbers.indexOf(3); // 3
61
62 // Remember: indexOf will only return the index
63 // of the first occurrence of your search item. It
64 // WILL NOT return multiple indexes

```

Further Reading

[MDN - indexOf](#)

[w3schools - indexOf](#)