

JavaScript (<http://www.sitepoint.com/javascript/>)

Use jQuery's `$.closest()` vs `$.parents()`



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So I guess you should consider using `$.closest()` (<http://api.jquery.com/closest/>) instead of `$.parents()` (<http://api.jquery.com/parents/>). But first, as always you need to know what your dealing with – the key difference between them.

`.closest()`

Begins with the current element

Travels up the DOM tree until it finds a match for the supplied selector

The returned jQuery object contains zero or one element for each element in the original set

`.parents()`

Begins with the parent element

Travels up the DOM tree to the document's root element, adding each ancestor element to a temporary collection; it then filters that collection based on a selector if one is supplied

The returned jQuery object contains zero or more elements for each element in the original set

This [jsperf](http://jsperf.com/jquery-parents-vs-closest/20) (<http://jsperf.com/jquery-parents-vs-closest/20>) shows the speed results.

Test		Ops/sec
Parent	<code>\$("#start").parent().parent();</code>	72,181 ±4.11% 24% slower
Closest	<code>\$(".start").closest("li");</code>	63,506 ±2.16% 32% slower
Parents by ID	<code>\$("#start").parents("li").first();</code>	35,965 ±1.10% 61% slower
Closest by ID	<code>\$("#start").closest("li");</code>	91,922 ±0.71% fastest
ID Parent:first	<code>\$("#start").parents("li:first");</code>	35,396 ±1.28% 62% slower

Get parent container using \$.parents()

Code example.

```

1 //remove handler
2 $('.btn.remove').on('click', _this.cache.$container, function(e)
3 {
4     e.preventDefault();
5     console.log('remove...');
6     $(this).parents('li').first().remove();
7 });

```

Get parent container using \$.closest()

Code example.

```

1 //remove handler
2 $('.btn.remove').on('click', _this.cache.$container, function(e)
3 {
4     e.preventDefault();
5     console.log('remove...');
6     $(this).closest('li').remove();


```



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Chrome result is similar like your result.

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