

JQUERY PRIMER 1

I thought I'd share some intro tips to using jQuery. These are the basics.

1. [Download the jQuery script \(current version 1.3.2\)](#)
2. Include it in your page using `<script type='text/javascript' src='scripts/jquery.js' />`. I usually rename it to just "jquery.js" and put it in a scripts folder.
3. You're ready to use it. Below are some basics, but [check out the API reference here for more](#). There are also tons of plugins for jquery to do other stuff.

jQuery is heavily OO-based (object oriented) where each method returns a jQuery "object". This allows chaining of functions, animations, and selectors. The point of jQuery is to get rid of low-level javascript functionality and make referencing of html elements easier. jQuery uses the "\$" to select elements (objects).

If you want to have animations start up when the page loads, instead of using `window.onload = function { ... }`, jQuery uses a method `$(document).ready(function() { ... });`. The difference is, `window.onload` will execute only after EVERYTHING on the page is loaded (images, external scripts, etc) while the latter will execute when the text is loaded, which is much faster.

BASIC ACTION: The following script will put "Hello World" inside the DIV. It's trivial, but shows the basic functionality of jQuery. A similar function, `append`, will add text to whatever is already in the DIV.

```
<script>
    $(document).ready(function() {
        $("#MyDiv").html("Hello World");
    });
</script>

<div id="MyDiv"></div>
```

BASIC ANIMATION: The following script will put "Hello World" inside the DIV and fade it in when the page loads. Note the chaining. The `html("Hello World")` method returns a reference to the `$("#MyDiv")` object, allowing you to add the next `fadeIn` method. `fadeIn` can be "fast", "slow", or any number in milliseconds. You can also try `slideDown`, which will expand the DIV downward to expose the text. `FadeOut` and `slideUp` do as you may think.

```
<script>
    $(document).ready(function() {
        $("#MyDiv").html("Hello World").fadeIn("slow");
    });
</script>

<div id="MyDiv" style="display:none"></div>
```

MOVING AND SIZING ELEMENTS: The following script will animate a red DIV to be 200px by 300px and grow the font to 30px. The animation lasts for 2 seconds. To shrink it back to normal, you can add a

second animate method at the end (animate(...).animate(...);).

```
<script>

    $(document).ready(function() {
        $("#MyDiv").animate({"width": "200px", "height": "300px", "fontSize":
"30px"}, 2000);
    });

</script>

<div id="MyDiv" style="width: 100px; height: 100px; background-color:red; font-
size:10px;">This is a block</div>
```

HOVER ANIMATION: The following script will do a very basic mouseover, mouseout hover in one line. The `$(this)` object is used inside functions called by methods (in this case, `hover`) to reference the parent object (the `DIV`). The object is being passed into the functions from `hover`. The `hover` function takes two arguments, a function call to the mouseover state and a function call to the mouseout state. In this case, the first function makes the `DIV` background blue, while the second turns it back to red. It's possible to use animation in these functions as well or any other action (such as fading in a `div` for a sub menu).

```
<script>

    $(document).ready(function() {
        $("#MyDiv").hover(function() { $(this).css({ "backgroundColor":
"blue" }); }, function() { $(this).css({ "backgroundColor": "red" }); });
    });

</script>

<div id="MyDiv" style="background-color:red;">This is a block</div>
```

NEXT TIME...FUN WITH CSS SELECTORS!