jQuery Syntax

Hello, and welcome to the lesson where we are going to get familiar with the correct jQuery syntax. The reason jQuery was invented is to give web developers an easy, simplified way to use JavaScript and jQuery, is a library that is built on top of JavaScript. And therefore, JavaScript is at the heart of jQuery and everything jQuery does is essentially just JavaScript and that being said, the syntax of jQuery is much easier and simpler than plain vanilla JavaScript, okay?

HTML Structure Example

So let's look at my HTML example, here. That's a sample page. I have a heading with two divs, one with an ID box and another with a class circle and a button which doesn't do anything for now. I have also used some CSS to style it, just some basic stuff. So it looks a bit nicer when we work with it. And now, one thing that is different from previous lessons is that I've included a JavaScript library in here. So, here is a script tag that links to a CDN, the Content Delivery Network which hosts that jQuery file, we could just as well download it from jquery.com and serve it locally from our server. And in WordPress, we don't need to worry about it because it is already loaded for us. We don't need to include a jQuery file, it is loaded in WordPress and another script file here. Basically loads my scripts.js, it could be named anyway but just to make it simple. I name the file scripts.js and inside that file, I can write my JavaScript. I could just as well place a script tag with opening and closing. And then write my JavaScript right here inline. But loading a file

works just as well and you know, just makes things simpler. You can refer back to the lesson where I explain where you can add custom code in Divi and how you can enqueue JavaScript files within your child theme or functionality plug-in or how you can use the script tag inside the code module, for example.

jQuery Syntax Example

So let's look at jQuery. All jQuery code must be contained within this specific snippet of code, okay? This is called the document ready event in its fullest syntax. It actually looks like this: document, ready, and then we have our function in here, document ready function, but people at jQuery created a shorthand version, which is just what we've been using. It's just a dollar sign and then parentheses function. Open close parenthesis, curly braces, opening and closing and then closing parenthesis closing round bracket. And semicolon at the end and in between those curly brackets, that's where you have your jQuery called or jQuery methods. So the point of the document ready event is to prevent jQuery from loading before the entire document is finished loading. You don't want to try and perform jQuery on an element in the browser that hasn't even loaded yet, right? So, for example, you have an image. When a browser displays an image, it can take a second to download and you already have your jQuery trying to resize or remove it or fade it, but if it's not even there, it's not in the document yet, it won't work. That is why we use that document ready event and it exactly, does what it sounds like. It waits until the document is ready. And the document here is our webpage. So in its simplest form jQuery syntax looks like this. We have a dollar sign, to access jQuery or to call jQuery. Next we have a selector inside round brackets and quotes. It is used to grab or select HTML elements whether it's with ID or a class or just a

tag. So any selector and then we have a dot and some action, okay? And opening and closing round brackets, parentheses and semicolon. So that is the basic, the most basic syntax of jQuery. It's all built around this and it gets more complicated because you can add parameters within this parentheses here and you can add functions in between here and the selectors can, you know, can select multiple selectors rather than just one element. So it grows from there but this is the bare bones, basic, simplest, syntax of jQuery. And so, let's try some real-world examples of that syntax in action.

jQuery in Action

I'm going to remove this and let's play around with my HTML page. Let's try with the dollar sign, and then our selector in quotes, it can be single, or double quotes, it doesn't matter. And then we define our selector, just like we use in CSS. So, ID box would be hashtag and box, and now we can use the hide method. So dot hide, opening and closing around brackets, and semicolon. And now, if I refresh that. So, you can see it for just a quick second when it loads, and then it hides it, okay? So sometimes it takes longer depending on how long the document is taking to load because it waits for the document to be ready and then it performs that function. Now let's try to select this other element, a circle, which uses a class circle. So dot circle and then let's try to fade out. Let me save that, refresh the page. You see how it fades out as soon as the document loads, simple as that. Now another thing we can do is simply select an element like H1. It doesn't need an ID or a class and we can change its CSS attributes by using the CSS method. And then in first quotes, we would define the CSS property. So let's say color then colon and another quotes for the value. Let's say, red. Okay, let me save that. And now if I refresh my H1 is red, now let's try to make something

happen when we click the button, using what it's called, the click method. So instead of this, we can select our button, and then, on the click, and in here, I need to say function and here I would use opening and closing curly brackets and then close it with a semicolon and anything we put inside this function will only happen on click, ok? So we are selecting an element with a button and then on the click method, we will run the function. So right now it won't do anything on page load, only when you click that element. And it would run the function that it's inside here and inside, we can basically add more jQuery. So let's select a different element. Let's maybe select a circle. And we can use the fade out method and specify the parameter which is in milliseconds, we can choose 1,000 milliseconds, which is one second for the element to fade out and then semicolon at the end of that method, And now if I save that, refresh my page, It doesn't do anything, but when I click the button, it fades out my circle. So, this is the basic idea behind jQuery and its syntax while I'll be covering a lot of what jQuery can do for you over the next couple of lessons.

It's probably a good idea to bookmark the jQuery documentation page, and it has everything here. So you can scroll through and see, you know, what sort of methods are available to you at different events? But this may be totally foreign to you if you have never done jQuery before and that's okay, that's why I'm here for. I would like to help you make this easier to understand and kind of read through.

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