

Changing Element CSS with jQuery

Hello and welcome to the lesson on modifying element CSS with jQuery. In this lesson, you are going to learn a few ways to change the appearance of the elements on the page using jQuery and I'll explain how it can connect with your custom CSS. First, let's start with how you can use jQuery to modify the CSS properties of an element.

Sample Page

Let's look at my HTML structure first. I have 4 divs. The first 3, use the class box and the blue box has an additional class of blue box, green box has a green box class, and also rounded class. And I also have a jQuery box that doesn't use the same CSS class because I would like to change its appearance with jQuery too match the CSS of that default class box, the orange one. I also have a button here. In my stylesheet, the main box class applies to all three divs here and it's just a basic styling. And then the blue box uses a different background, green box has a different background color and a rounded class, which is added to the green box using a border-radius here.

CSS method

Now inside our scripts.js, let's try to select that jQuery box and add a similar styling to that orange box. So, first to select it, we need to use its class which is jQuery box. And now, we can use the CSS method. And I already mentioned that earlier and it can be as simple as specifying two strings. First, is the property name and then the second is the property

value. So let's say background color, then comma and again within quotes single or double, we use the property value. So the color name is lightsalmon. Let's save that and refresh. And now this jQuery box uses that background color. So if I want to change its height and width and all the different properties, what can I do? I could go ahead and duplicate this and then use the height and width and all the different properties here. But as you're probably guessing, that isn't the correct way of doing it because that requires the browser to search for that jQuery box CSS class 5 different times.

Single CSS method

So we want to use all these properties within a single CSS method. And that means we have to use a bit different syntax. So instead of these two strings, we would use an opening and closing curly bracket. And then similarly, use the property name in quotes then colon so just like within our CSS, and now we can use comma and specify another property. So for example, width again colon, and I think it's, let's check, its 150 pixels, and then comma and another one. Let's remove that. So as you can see that, kind of if we are, let's say we want to specify the height as well. That kind of makes it difficult to read. So we can put each of these properties on a separate line, which will make our CSS easier to read. The last one doesn't need a comma, but we can add padding-top, I think it's 60 pixels. So both property and value has to have quotes. Now, if I refresh that - we are getting close, this was not as we wanted and then we have: text-align: center. Let's save, let's see that. Okay. So, as you can see, it's very easy to modify CSS properties of an element with jQuery, but it's not like this is the way you should write your CSS, right?

Your CSS belongs inside the style sheet, but you can use this method to, you know, alter the CSS on the page to change it in certain moments for

example, all these CSS properties will be added inline. So, my jQuery box, as you can see, has inline styling with all these properties. So, that CSS will most likely overwrite whatever you have inside your style sheet, as long as you're not using important. And by the way, you cannot use important here jQuery, will disregard it and it won't work the same way as it does in CSS.

Relative sizing

What you can do here, which isn't possible inside CSS is using that relative sizing. So, let's say for the blue box, we can change the width. And I could say, 200 pixels, right? If I save that. That changes but I could also use the relative sizing just like we did for our animate method using plus equals and then just decrease any size it has by 20 pixels. So now if I refresh that it would have 170, right? So we can use a relative sizing which can be useful in some cases, it's not possible with the standard CSS.

addClass & removeClass method

But whenever you have so many properties to add, it's probably a better idea just to simply add a CSS class and then keep that CSS within the style sheet. So instead of defining multiple CSS properties inside the CSS method, you can simply use the add class method. And here in quotes, we can simply specify our class name. We don't use a dot here, it's the same thing that would be inside HTML with class - right here, right? So that would be our class name and we can simply add a class box, and now I can remove all this. And if I refresh, you can see that this also uses the class box, we can see that in our page source that my jQuery box has an additional class box, which uses that default orange box styling. We can add multiple classes. So, in addition to box, we can

also add a class rounded just with a space just like you would inside an HTML tag here. So box rounded, if I save that and refresh, now this div uses both box and rounded. So similar to add class, we have a remove class method, that would need a semicolon. And now we can maybe remove the rounded class from the green box using the remove class. And usually you want to use these two together. So first you would remove a certain class and then you might want to add a different class to that element. So add a class blue-box. And now if we see it's no longer rounded and it uses the blue background and again, we could combine these two together using the chaining. So instead of searching for that green box multiple times, we can simply do it like this. So add all this together. We can remove and add class, just like this.

toggleClass method

And we can also toggle class. So, let me show you. Let's maybe, let's see if we can toggle a class on the blue box. We'll toggle the rounded class. So for our blue box, we want to toggle class around it. The toggle basically means that if it doesn't have this class, it will add it, and if it has it, it will remove it. So, it's best to use it inside an event, right? So if we, for example, a click event, if we click the button, it will toggle that class. So let's add a click event to our button, click, inside the click event we need a function, and curly braces. And now we can toggle the class rounded on our blue box. Let's save that. And now if I refresh, when I click the button, it toggles the rounded class in and out of that element. So these methods are very useful and I'm sure you'll find yourself using it a lot when trying to modify your website elements and add some interaction to your websites with jQuery.