



Flemington Reading and Writing Program

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JavaScript

JavaScript was developed by Netscape in 1995
It makes HTML interactive

JavaScript is not Java - Java is a programming language developed by Sun.
Java is similar to c & c++ which need to be compiled

JavaScript is a programming language, but it is a client side scripting language
Code is inserted in HTML pages and it simply runs in the internet browser

Security

Running JavaScript has security implications, so it has security restrictions:

1. JavaScript cannot read files from or write files to the file system on the computer.
2. JavaScript cannot execute any other programs.
3. JavaScript cannot establish any connection to other computers, except to download a new HTML page or to send mail.

However the combination of IE and Windows sometimes has allowed hackers to find ways to compromise security using JavaScript.

Browsers

There are different versions of JavaScript.
Not all browsers support every version of JavaScript

The most common internet browsers are Microsoft Internet Explorer (IE) and Mozilla, which is a development of Netscape.

Firefox is the latest version of Mozilla, so sometimes people call it Netscape.

Internet Explorer is has different versions. Each version of IE supports a different version of JavaScript.

The latest IE version is IE6.

Because of the issues of JavaScript versions and browser support, very often there will be problems with your results.

JavaScript involves a lot of work in making sure the script you are writing will be compatible with current browsers.

To deal with (older) browsers that do not support JavaScript, we use this method, to trick any browser that doesn't support JavaScript into treating the JavaScript code as if it was HTML comment, and therefore not displayed:

```
<SCRIPT language="JavaScript">
<!-- This opens the HTML comment that will hide the script from old browsers
... your JavaScript code goes here ...
//--> This closes the HTML comment and the browser will read on normally
</SCRIPT>
```

Note that the browser will read but not understand the
<SCRIPT language="JavaScript">
and </SCRIPT> tags,
but it will not display them because they are tags.

Advanced

You can put as many JavaScript tags on a page as you need
If you want to use JavaScript functions (which is more advanced) you need to place them
between the <head> and </head> tags

Another advanced way to use JavaScript is to put the code on a separate file with a .js
extension

This can be done with DreamWeaver
The HTML page will then refer to the .js file:

```
<html>
<head>
<script src="my_javascript_code_file.js"></script>
</head>
```

View Source

It is easy to find out what JavaScript is used on a webpage.
Just use the View Source command on your browser.
You can then copy and paste the JavaScript code into Notepad, save it and use it in your own
webpage.

Starting script

The latest version of HTML is XHTML
XHTML supports the latest version of JavaScript

In XHTML the beginning of JavaScript code begins with
<script type="text/javascript">
and finishes with
</script>

In HTML the beginning of JavaScript code begins with
<script language="JavaScript">
and finishes with
</script>

Older browsers may need:
<script language="JavaScript" type="text/javascript">
finishing with
</script>

comments

Because your page will probably be edited by someone else at some stage, when you are writing HTML and JavaScript it is good to put comments that will not display:

```
<!-- This is the start of my HTML comment  
This is another line  
This is the end of my HTML comment -->
```

```
<script language="JavaScript">  
// This is a one-line comment in JavaScript  
</script>
```

```
<script language="JavaScript">  
/* This is a multi-line comment in JavaScript  
here is another line  
here is my last line */  
</script>
```

refs:

<http://www.w3schools.com/js/default.asp>
<http://www.quirksmode.org/index.html?js/intro.html>
<http://hotwired.lycos.com/webmonkey/programming/javascript/tutorials/tutorial1.html>
<http://www.webteacher.com/javascript/>
<http://www.pageresource.com/jscript/jbasics.htm>