The jQuery Cheat Sheet

The jQuery Cheat Sheet · WebsiteSetup.org

Is jQuery still relevant in 2026?

jQuery 4.0.0 shipped on January 17, 2026, and the library still runs on a huge share of the web, including most WordPress themes and many plugins. But modern browsers closed the gap: `querySelector`, `classList`, and `fetch()` cover most of the old use cases with no library. Keep jQuery when maintaining a jQuery or WordPress build. Reach for vanilla JavaScript on new projects.

How to include jQuery

Latest release (new projects, modern browsers):

```
<script src="https://code.jquery.com/jquery-4.0.0.min.js"></script>
```

Legacy and WordPress line (last of the 3.x series, ships with WP plus jQuery Migrate):

```
<script src="https://code.jquery.com/jquery-3.7.1.min.js"></script>
```

Run code once the DOM is ready:

```
$(function() {
  /* runs when DOM is ready */
});
```

Selectors

jQuery selectors mirror CSS. Pass a CSS-style string to `$()`.

Selector	What it grabs
`$("#id")`	Element with that ID
`$(".class")`	All elements with that class
`$("p")`	All paragraphs
`$("ul li")`	List items inside a list
`$("a[target]")`	Links with a target attribute
`$(":checked")`	Checked inputs

DOM traversal

Move around the tree from a matched set.

Method	What it does
`.find(".x")`	Descendants matching .x
`.parent()`	Direct parent

`.children()`	Direct child elements
`.closest("div")`	Nearest matching ancestor
`.next()` / `.prev()`	Next or previous sibling
`.siblings()`	All siblings
`.each(fn)`	Run fn on each element

DOM manipulation

Read and change text, HTML, attributes, classes, and styles, then add or remove nodes.

Method	What it does
`.text("hi")`	Set text content
`.html("<b>hi</b>")`	Set inner HTML
`.val()`	Get or set a form value
`.attr("href")`	Get or set an attribute
`.prop("checked")`	Read live state (checked, disabled)
`.addClass("a")` / `.removeClass("a")`	Add or remove a class
`.toggleClass("a")`	Toggle a class on or off
`.css("color","red")`	Set an inline style
`.append()` / `.prepend()`	Insert inside, at end or start
`.after()` / `.before()`	Insert outside, after or before
`.remove()` / `.empty()` / `.clone()`	Delete, clear, or copy

Events

Use `.on()` for everything. It supports delegation for elements that do not exist yet.

```
$("#save").on("click", function() {
  console.log("clicked");
});

// Delegation
$("ul").on("click", "li", function() {
  $(this).toggleClass("active");
});

// Stop default action
$("form").on("submit", function(e) {
  e.preventDefault();
});
```

Helpers: `.submit()`, `.hover()`, `.keyup()`.

Effects and animation

Quick animation helpers. CSS transitions do most of this today with better performance.

Method	Effect
`.show()` / `.hide()` / `.toggle()`	Show, hide, or flip visibility
`.fadeIn()` / `.fadeOut()`	Fade opacity in or out
`.slideUp()` / `.slideDown()`	Collapse or expand height
`.animate({opacity:0}, 400)`	Custom animation over 400ms

AJAX

Background HTTP requests. `fetch()` is the modern alternative and needs no library.

```
$.ajax({
  url: "/api/data",
  method: "POST",
  data: { id: 5 },
  success: function(response) { console.log(response); }
});

$.get("/api/data", function(res) { /* GET */ });
$.post("/api/save", { id: 5 }, function(res) { /* POST */ });
$.getJSON("/api/data.json", function(data) { /* parsed JSON */ });
```

Utilities and chaining

Array helpers, the `.length` count, and method chaining.

```
$.each([1, 2, 3], function(i, val) { console.log(i, val); });
var doubled = $.map([1, 2, 3], function(n) { return n * 2; });
var count = $("p").length;
$("p").addClass("x").fadeIn();
```

jQuery vs vanilla JS

Most jQuery calls have a well-supported plain-JavaScript equivalent.

Task	jQuery	Vanilla JS
Select one	`$("#x")`	`document.querySelector("#x")`
Select all	`$(".x")`	`document.querySelectorAll(".x")`
Set text	`.text("hi")`	`el.textContent = "hi"`
Add class	`.addClass("a")`	`el.classList.add("a")`
On click	`.on("click", fn)`	`el.addEventListener("click", fn)`
Hide	`.hide()`	`el.style.display = "none"`

Fetch JSON	`$.getJSON(url)`	`fetch(url).then(r => r.json())`

Gotchas and common mistakes

Use `.on()`, not the deprecated `.bind()`, `.live()`, or `.delegate()`. Use `.prop()` for live state (`checked`, `disabled`, `selected`); `.attr()` reads only the HTML default.

WordPress runs in no-conflict mode, so `$` is not available by default. Use `jQuery(...)` or wrap your code:

```
(function($) {
  /* $ works here */
})(jQuery);
```

jQuery 4.0 drops old IE, no longer auto-promotes JSON to JSONP (set `dataType: "jsonp"` when needed), and removes `.push`, `.sort`, and `.splice` from jQuery objects; it adds Trusted Types and CSP support. Run jQuery Migrate 4.0 on legacy code. WordPress still ships 3.7.1, so do not assume 4.0 syntax there. New projects rarely need jQuery.