

# Selecting by ID and class

## ID Selector

A jQuery selector can specify a particular element by its identity. An ID Selector specifies the unique value of an element that has been assigned to its **id** attribute. This must be prefixed by a **#** hash character and enclosed within quote marks between the selector function's parentheses. For example, a selector `$("#two")` queries the HTML document and returns the element that has the value "two" assigned to its **id** attribute. An identity selector call can append an action function, using dot notation, to specify an action to perform on the returned element:



identity.html

1 Add an ordered list to the body of an HTML document

```
<ol>
<li id = "one" >ID Item
<li id = "two" >ID Item
<li id = "three" >ID Item
</ol>
```

2 In the head section of the HTML document add a script block that recognizes the "document ready" event by selecting one list item element and replacing text content

```
$( document ).ready( function() {
```

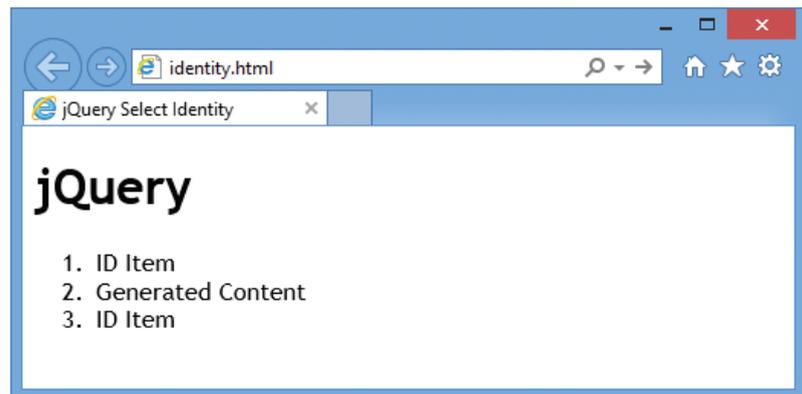
```
    $( "#two" ).text( "Generated Content" );
} );
```

3 Save the document alongside the jQuery library file then open it in a browser to see the generated list item content

### Hot tip



Matching by identity internally uses the `getElementById()` DOM method and is a fast and efficient technique.



...cont'd

## Class Selector

A jQuery Class Selector can also return a collection of elements of a particular class by specifying the value assigned to their **class** attribute. This should be prefixed by the element name followed by a `.` period character, and the whole expression enclosed within quote marks between the selector function's parentheses. For example, the selector `$( "li.rest" )` queries the HTML document and returns the list item elements that have the value "rest" assigned to their **class** attribute. A class selector call can append an action function, using dot notation, to specify an action to perform on the returned elements:

1 Add an ordered list to the body of an HTML document

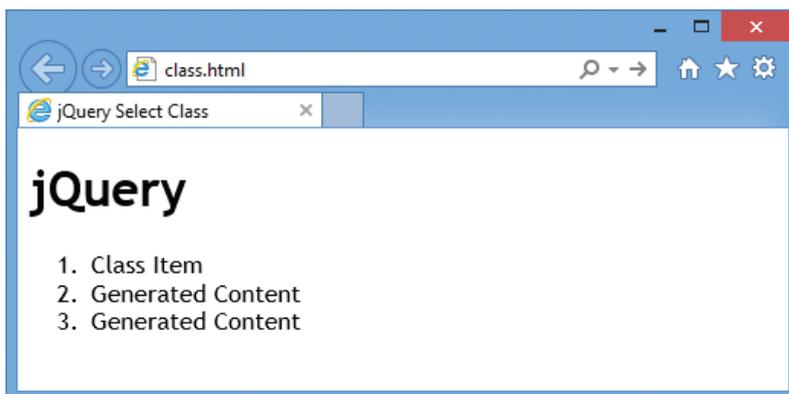
```
<ol>
<li class = "start" >Class Item
<li class = "rest" >Class Item
<li class = "rest" >Class Item
</ol>
```

2 In the head section of the HTML document add a script block that recognizes the "document ready" event by selecting list item elements and replacing text content

```
$( document ).ready( function() {
```

```
    $( "li.rest" ).text( "Generated Content" ) ;
} ) ;
```

3 Save the document alongside the jQuery library file then open it in a browser to see the generated list item content



HTML

class.html

Don't forget



Internally, element selectors use the `getElementsByName()` DOM method and class selectors use the `getElementsByClassName()` DOM method.