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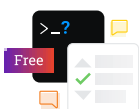
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How to change text multiple times at different intervals?

Ask Question

Asked 5 years, 11 months ago Modified 5 years, 11 months ago Viewed 2k times

So let's say you have something like this..

HTML:

```
<p id="text"></p>
```

JS:

```
setTimeout(function() {$('#text').html("First sentence");}, 1000);
setTimeout(function() {$('#text').html("Second sentence");}, 2000);
```

Is there any way you can display like ten of these sentences without having to write the same line of code ten times? I can't figure it out..

javascript jquery

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asked May 1, 2016 at 22:46

user298519
982 1 9 24

7 Answers

Sorted by: Highest score (default)

Create a closure over `i` and throw a party.

```
var $text = $('#text');
var numbers = ["First", "Second", "Third", "Fourth", "Fifth", "Sixth", "Seventh", "Eighth", "Ninth", "Tenth"];

for (var i = 1; i <= 10; ++i) {
    (function(index) {
        setTimeout(function() {
            $text.html(numbers[index-1] + " sentence");
        }, i * 1000);
    })(i);
}
```

<https://jsfiddle.net/9z4r1qqk/>

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answered May 1, 2016 at 23:11

Andy Hoffman
16.9k 4 36 55

Thank you. This is what I was looking for. What does the (i) do at the end of the function? – user298519 May 2, 2016 at 0:17

What's happening is that the anonymous function is being immediately invoked (hence, the `()` after the function close. The `i` inside those parenthesis is coming from the `i` in the outer for loop. The reason we need to do this is because we must capture the value of `i` *the moment* the loop is executing. Otherwise, we'll always get the final value of `i`. Also notice that `index`, (the argument in the anonymous function) is the value of `i` at each iteration of the for loop. – Andy Hoffman May 2, 2016 at 0:30

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```
$('#text').text(sentence);

if (sentences.length == 0) {
  window.clearInterval(timerId);
}

}

timerId = window.setInterval(nextSentence, 1000);

<script src="https://ajax.googleapis.com/ajax/libs/jquery/2.1.1/jquery.min.js"></script>
<p id="text"></p>
```

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Just add the sentences you want to display to the `sentences` variable and they should change approximately every second.

If this is all you need to do, you can probably remove the jQuery dependency by replacing `$('#text').text(sentence);` with `document.getElementById('text').textContent = sentence;` .

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edited May 1, 2016 at 23:34

answered May 1, 2016 at 22:53



[Jon Koops](#)

7,757 ● 6 ● 26 ● 47

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1



This will run as a loop and only show the next sentence after the last one is complete.

[Sample here](#)

```
var a = [
  "test 1",
  "test 2",
  "test 3",
  "test 4",
  "test 5"
];

(function update(idx) {

  $('#text').html(a[idx]);
  setTimeout(update, 1000, ((++idx) % a.length));

})(0);
```

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edited May 1, 2016 at 23:11

answered May 1, 2016 at 23:01



[Daniel Almeida](#)

399 ● 2 ● 6

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1



Something like:

```
for(var i = 1; i < 10; i++) {
  setTimeout(function() {$('#text').html("Sentence #" + i);}, i * 1000);
}
```

If you don't need the sentence to have exactly that format.

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edited May 1, 2016 at 23:06

answered May 1, 2016 at 22:51



[JohannThor](#)

211 ● 2 ● 9

setTimeout isn't a precise timer so it could still fire the callbacks in a different order. Although highly unlikely. – [Jon Koops](#) May 1, 2016 at 22:56

Valid point @JonKoops , I figured that since the granularity in this case is 1 sec it shouldn't become a problem. – [JohannThor](#) May 1, 2016 at 22:57

I'm not sure this would work as `i` changes in context before the function gets called. The functions created all share the same `i` context. In addition, OP asked for variable timing. – [Ouroborus](#) May 1, 2016 at 23:03

@Ouroborus From the code he posted I assumed 1 second interval. But the other point is valid, it might be better to wrap it in a closure to make sure the context is maintained, although my testing does not show any difference. – [JohannThor](#) May 1, 2016 at 23:04

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1



Seem like `map` is what You are looking for.

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```
const $elem = $('#text');
```

```
[
  ['First sentence', 1000],
  ['Second sentence', 2000],
].map(([text, delay]) => setTimeout(() => $elem.text(text), delay));
```

It would also be a good idea to store a pointer to an element in a variable, so the browser would do the search just once.

You also might want to switch to `text` method if the content You want to set is just strings.

Disclaimer: this code is written in ES6, so it won't be working in IE (but will in Edge) and Safari.

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[edited May 1, 2016 at 23:12](#)

[answered May 1, 2016 at 22:52](#)



[Роман Парадеев](#)
3,996 ● 15 ● 33

You are not doing it ten times here. – [Mario Lopez May 1, 2016 at 22:53](#)

I believe the main goal was not to do it exactly ten times, but rather to set different text with certain delays.

– [Роман Парадеев May 1, 2016 at 22:55](#)

@MarioLopez this is easy enough to extend to more cases. – [Arjan May 1, 2016 at 22:57](#)

2 @РоманПарадеев I would use an array of objects instead of an array of arrays, to improve readability. Something like `{text: "First sentence", delay: 1000}` , so you can access `item.text` and `item.delay` . – [Arjan May 1, 2016 at 22:59](#)

3 And this is ES6, which is great, but not supported by all browsers. – [Arjan May 1, 2016 at 23:02](#)

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1



```
var sequence = [
  ['first sentence',1000],
  ['second sentence',2000]
];
```

```
var $target = $('#text');
```

```
sequence.map(function(v,i,a){
  return setTimeout(function(){
    $target.innerHTML(v[0]);
  },v[1]);
});
```

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[edited May 1, 2016 at 23:09](#)

[answered May 1, 2016 at 23:00](#)



[Ouroboros](#)
14.1k ● 1 ● 33 ● 55

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0



When you don't want to type the same thing multiple times, perhaps in multiple places, create a plugin that is easy to use instead

```
$fn.queuedText = function(text, delay) {
  var self = this;
  text = Array.isArray(text) ? text : [text];

  $.each(text, function(_, txt) {
    self.delay(delay).queue(function (next) {
      self.text(txt);
      next();
    });
  });

  return self;
}
```

```
// To be used as .....->
```

```
$('#text').queuedText([
  "First sentence",
  "Second sentence",
  "Third sentence",
  "Fourth sentence",
  "Fifth sentence",
  "Sixth sentence",
  "Seventh sentence",
  "Eight sentence",
  "Ninth sentence",
  "Tenth sentence"
], 1000);
```

```
<script src="https://ajax.googleapis.com/ajax/libs/jquery/2.1.1/jquery.min.js"></script>
<div id="text"></div>
```

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