

JQuery multiple show and hide div's based on click event

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This article shows how to use JQuery to show and hide many div's at the same time, revealing the content that the user requests. It also degrades gracefully if you turn off Javascript.

Have you ever tried to display a Questions and Answers type page, where the Question is a clickable link that shows the corresponding Answer (FAQ's)? It is quite tricky to make this interesting, and Accessible to impaired users.

A full demo of multiple show and hide divs is here: [link](#)

The reason I started trying to develop this functionality is that I couldn't use a select field jump event, as that is useless for screen readers, and displaying an old school header list with bookmark href links is just shockingly bad. This is Accessible, and more interesting to use.

My content is dynamically generated from a query, but here is an example of what it looks like:

```
<cfoutput>
  <h2>
<a href="javascript:void(0);" id="showAnswer" class="showAnswer" ident="1">
  How far away is the Moon?</a>
</h2>

  <div class="answers" id="answers1">
    I think its about 23km away.
  </div>

  <h2>
<a href="javascript:void(0);" id="showAnswer" class="showAnswer" ident="2">
  Where is the coldest place on Earth?</a>
</h2>

  <div class="answers" id="answers2">
    deep within the Antarctic Plateau. It has an average winter temperature of minus !
  </div>
```

```
                <h2>
<a href="javascript:void(0);" id="showAnswer" class="showAnswer" ident="3">
  Golden Delicious, Granny Smith and Gala are types of which fruit?</a>
                </h2>

                <div class="answers" id="answers3">
                  They are all types of Apple.
                </div>
            </cfoutput>
```

Each of the links has a unique ident attribute value (1,2,3) this is used in the following JQuery script to determine which child div to toggle.

Start off by calling the JQuery library from Google. Next we have a function that loads when the rest of the DOM is ready.

Next we hide all div's that have an id that contains the string 'answers'. In this way when the page loads all the divs are hidden.

Next we have our click event, which is based on a selector for the 'showAnswer' class. This will hide all the divs in the same way as above, to make sure we don't have two div's open at the same time. Next it gets the ident value of the clicked link, and builds a selector to toggle.

```
:=<script src="http://ajax.googleapis.com/ajax/libs/jquery/1.4.0/jquery.js" type="text/javascript">
</script language="javascript">
$(document).ready(function() {

// hide all the div elements with answers in the class name
$("#div[id^='answers']").hide();

// toggles the divs on click of the links
$('.showAnswer').click(function() {

// hide all the divs
$("#div[id^='answers']").hide(200);

var ident = $(this).attr('ident');

// show the clicked div
$('#answers' + ident).toggle(200);

return false;
});
});
```

```
    });  
  });  
</script>
```

I briefly looked at using the `child()` or `next()` JQuery methods so that I didn't need a unique identifier to do this, but didn't get either of those working in anywhere near as simple a way as this. (was 15-20 lines of code)

If anyone knows a more modular, detached way of doing this it would be good to see.

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