

jQuery Quickie - Checking Whether an Element Exists

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I'm still a relative noob when it comes to jQuery, so today, when I had a need to check whether a particular form field existed, I had no idea how to do it. Of course some quick Googling brought me an [answer](#), from the [jQuery for Designers](#) site by [Remy Sharp](#).

The quick answer is that you can test the *length* property of any jQuery object, and if it returns zero then the element doesn't exist. For example, what I wanted to do was to disable a form field if another form field existed, so I wrote the following code:

```
if ($("#fieldA").length != 0) {  
    $("#fieldB").attr("disabled", "disabled");  
}
```

Reading through the [comments](#) on that page, I saw a suggestion by [Kat Reeve](#) to add the following to a standard JavaScript include file:

```
jQuery.fn.exists = function() { return (this.length > 0); };
```

Which would allow me to change the above code to:

```
if ($("#fieldA").exists()) {  
    $("#fieldB").attr("disabled", "disabled");  
}
```

Nice, innit?