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Introduction to 'JavaScript' Language

Browser Object Model

Module 5 - BOM - History Object in JavaScript



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History Object in JavaScript

The **history object** in JavaScript is part of the **Browser Object Model (BOM)** and allows you to interact with the browser's session history. It lets you navigate between previously visited pages in the current browser session.



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Features of history Object:

- Move Forward and Backward - Navigate between previously visited pages.
- Access History Length - Get the number of pages in the session history.
- Manipulate Browser History - Add or modify history entries without refreshing the page.



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Syntax:

The history object is accessed via window.history (or simply history since window is global).



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```
history.propertyName; // Access a property
history.methodName(); // Call a method
```



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Common Properties & Methods:



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Property / Method	Description
history.length	Returns the number of pages in the session history.
history.back()	Goes back to the previous page (same as clicking the browser's "Back" button).
history.forward()	Moves forward to the next page (same as clicking "Forward" in the browser).
history.go(n)	Moves forward or backward by n pages (n can be positive or negative).
history.pushState(state, title, URL)	Adds a new entry to the history stack without reloading the page.
history.replaceState(state, title, URL)	Modifies the current history entry without adding a new one.



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Solved Example 1: Navigate Back and Forward

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
<head>
  <title>History Object Example</title>
</head>
<body>

  <h2>Browser History Navigation</h2>
  <button onclick="history.back()">Go Back</button>
  <button onclick="history.forward()">Go Forward</button>

</body>
</html>
```

Execute JavaScript history navigation methods directly in the browser console.

Steps to Use history Methods in Console:

Step 1: Open Developer Console

- Open Google Chrome, Firefox, or Edge.
- Go to any website, like abhyasonline.in or example.com.
- Right-click anywhere on the page and select Inspect OR press F12.
- Click on the Console tab.

Step 2: Execute history Methods in Console

Go Back One Page

history.back();
Takes you to the previous page in history.

Go Forward One Page

history.forward();
Takes you to the next page if available.

Go Back Multiple Pages

history.go(-2);
Moves two pages back in history.

Go Forward Multiple Pages

history.go(2);
Moves two pages forward in history.

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Check the Number of Pages in History

```
console.log(history.length);
```

Shows the number of pages in the session history.



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Add a Custom Page to History (Without Reloading)

```
history.pushState(null, "", "custom-page.html");  
console.log("New history entry added!");
```



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Adds a new entry "custom-page.html" to the history without reloading.

Replace the Current URL in History

```
history.replaceState(null, "", "replaced-page.html");  
console.log("Current history entry replaced!");
```



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Modifies the current URL in history without reloading.

Step 3: Observe the Changes

- After running `history.back()` or `history.go(-1)`, your browser will navigate back.
- Use `history.forward()` or `history.go(1)` to return.
- Check history length using `history.length`.



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Important Notes

- If there is no previous page, `history.back()` won't do anything.
- If you navigate using `history.pushState()`, the URL changes but the page doesn't reload.
- `history.replaceState()` modifies the current history with instead of adding a new one.



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