

# Javascript Show Hide Element by ID

If you have a section that you want to control with links, this is one way to do it.

This method uses javascript to show or hide an element, by changing the display property of the element. It is targeted using the element's id.

You could also have used an inline frame, or frames- but those methods are not search engine friendly. Search engines will not be able to read the content of those- and your visitors will have to wait for each option to load. This is a clean method to show different content in an area.

This allows you to load all your content first, also lets the search spiders read and index the content. Furthermore, it lets you neatly arrange your content on one page.

## Example

Try these: [show a1](#) [show a2](#) [show a3](#) [show 'thiscanbeanything'](#)

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### This content is in a div with id "thiscanbeanything"

Sartre is one of those writers for whom a determined philosophical position is the centre of their artistic being. Although drawn from many sources, for example, Husserl's idea of a free, fully intentional consciousness and Heidegger's existentialism, the existentialism Sartre formulated and popularized is profoundly original. Its popularity and that of its author reached a climax in the forties, and Sartre's theoretical writings as well as his novels and plays constitute one of the main inspirational sources of modern literature. In his philosophical view atheism is taken for granted; the "loss of God" is not mourned. Man is condemned to freedom, a freedom from all authority, which he may seek to evade, distort, and deny but which he will have to face if he is to become a moral being. The meaning of man's life is not established before his existence. Once the terrible freedom is acknowledged, man has to make this meaning himself, has to commit himself to a role in this world, has to commit his freedom. And this attempt to make oneself is futile without the "solidarity" of others.

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( Content not in one of your areas to show or hide. )

## Usage

### Web & Email Hosting



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Want to try it out? Here's how.

## Step 1

Place this code between the `<head>` tags in your webpage.

```
<script language="JavaScript">
//here you place the ids of every element you want.
var ids=new Array('a1','a2','a3','thiscanbeanything');

function switchid(id){
    hideallids();
    showdiv(id);
}

function hideallids(){
    //loop through the array and hide each element by id
    for (var i=0;i<ids.length;i++){
        hidediv(ids[i]);
    }
}

function hidediv(id) {
    //safe function to hide an element with a specified id
    if (document.getElementById) { // DOM3 = IE5, NS6
        document.getElementById(id).style.display = 'none';
    }
    else {
        if (document.layers) { // Netscape 4
            document.id.display = 'none';
        }
        else { // IE 4
            document.all.id.style.display = 'none';
        }
    }
}

function showdiv(id) {
    //safe function to show an element with a specified id

    if (document.getElementById) { // DOM3 = IE5, NS6
        document.getElementById(id).style.display = 'block';
    }
    else {
        if (document.layers) { // Netscape 4
            document.id.display = 'block';
        }
        else { // IE 4
            document.all.id.style.display = 'block';
        }
    }
}
</script>
```

## Step2

This is example html you can use, this goes inside your html body.

```
<p>Try these: <a href="javascript:switchid('a1');">show a1</a>
<a href="javascript:switchid('a2');">show a2</a>
<a href="javascript:switchid('a3');">show a3</a>
<a href="javascript:switchid('thiscanbeanything');">show 'thiscanbeanything'</a><
<hr/>
```

```
<div id='a1' style="display:block;">
  <h2>Sample text:</h2>
  <p><b>Jean-Paul Sartre, (1905-1980)</b> born in Paris in 1905, st
  Normale Supérieure from 1924 to 1929 and became Professor of Phil
  in 1931. With the help of a stipend from the Institut Français he
  (1932) the philosophies of Edmund Husserl and Martin Heidegger. A
  at Le Havre, and then in Laon, he taught at the Lycée Pasteur in
  Since the end of the Second World War, Sartre has been living as
```

```
</div>
```

```
<div id='a2' style="display:none;">
  <h3>More on JPS</h3>
  <p>The conclusions a writer must draw from this position were set
  "Qu'est-ce que la littérature?" (What Is Literature?), 1948: lite
  no longer an activity for itself, nor primarily descriptive of ch
  and situations, but is concerned with human freedom and its (and
  commitment. Literature is committed; artistic creation is a moral
```

```
</div>
```

```
<div id='a3' style="display:none;">
```

```
  <p>Yet more content. This can be anything in here, html, pictures
</div>
```

```
<div id='thiscanbeanything' style="display:none;">
  <h3>This content is in a div with id "thicanbeanything"</h3>
  <p>Sartre is one of those writers for whom a determined p
  centre of their artistic being. Although drawn from many
  Husserl's idea of a free, fully intentional consciousness
  the existentialism Sartre formulated and popularized is p
  Its popularity and that of its author reached a climax in
  theoretical writings as well as his novels and plays cons
  sources of modern literature. In his philosophical view a
  "loss of God" is not mourned. Man is condemned to freedom
  which he may seek to evade, distort, and deny but which h
  become a moral being. The meaning of man's life is not es
  Once the terrible freedom is acknowledged, man has to mak
  commit himself to a role in this world, has to commit his
  make oneself is futile without the "solidarity" of others
```

```
</div>
```

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