In this chapter, you will begin to see how you can use jQuery to work with HTML elements. You will start with what is arguably the most powerful of the features, and that is the jQuery selector. The selectors make working with elements in your application a cinch. You will also see the various ways you can create new elements and use the jQuery utilities. Finally, you will learn about the rich set of tools available to manipulate, transform, and handle events in your HTML.

Hello World

Creating an application page that has jQuery loaded will give you an excellent basis to begin learning what you can do using jQuery. In the first few examples, you will work with some of the main concepts, and the later examples will build upon the knowledge gained.

In the previous chapter, you explored the different ways you can make jQuery available to your environment and how to load jQuery to the SharePoint page. Apart from looking at the HTML of the page, there has been no real way to test that it has loaded correctly. Now that you have read about the basics of jQuery, it’s time you wrote the obligatory “Hello World” example. You should already have deployed jQuery to your SharePoint environment and have it loading to a page using one of the methods discussed in the previous chapter.

To get started with the first “Hello World” example, open Visual Studio 2010 and use the Empty SharePoint Project template to create a project called MyjQueryApplicationPage, as shown in Figure 3-1.
In the SharePoint Customization Wizard, enter the URL you want to use to test the deployment of this application page, choose “Deploy as a farm solution,” and click Finish. The application page gets deployed to the Layouts folder, which is why you need to choose a farm solution.

Next, add a new Application Page item called jQueryBasics.aspx, and open the file once it’s created. You should be able to see the different content placeholders available to you from the default master page. Because I have opted to use the Site Actions method of adding jQuery to the page, I do not need to put anything in the head section. However, if you wanted to have only jQuery available to this page, you could have used the “Adding script” reference from within an application page, as described in Chapter 2.

Change the contents in the PageTitle content placeholder to jQuery Basics and the PageTitleInTitleArea to My jQuery Basics Page. I recommend deploying this page as it is just to make sure it loads correctly; there’s nothing worse than wondering what’s up with your jQuery code when it was just the page all along. If it’s working fine, then you’re good to add your first jQuery code. The solution has put the application page only on the file system (in the Layouts folder), so the only way you can get to it is to navigate to its URL directly:


You should see an empty page (how exciting), but it should have a title of My jQuery Basics Page, as shown in Figure 3-2.