# Element: setAttributeNode() method


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{{ APIRef("DOM") }}

The **`setAttributeNode()`** method of the {{domxref("Element")}} interface adds a new {{domxref("Attr")}} node to the specified element.

If you don't need to work with the attribute node (such as cloning from another element) before adding it, you can use the {{domxref("Element.setAttribute()", "setAttribute()")}} method instead.

## Syntax

```
setAttributeNode(attribute)
```

## Parameters

- `attribute`

- : The {{domxref("Attr")}} node to add to the element.

## Return value

The replaced attribute node, if any, returned by this function.

# Examples

This example copies the `lang` attribute from one element to another.

## HTML

```
<div id="one" lang="en-US">one</div>
<div id="two">two</div>
```

## JavaScript

```
const d1 = document.getElementById("one");
const d2 = document.getElementById("two");
const a = d1.getAttributeNode("lang");

d2.setAttributeNode(a.cloneNode(true));

// Returns: 'en-US'
console.log(d2.attributes[1].value);
```

# Notes

If the attribute named already exists on the element, that attribute is replaced with the new one and the replaced one is returned.

# Specifications

{{Specifications}}

# Browser compatibility

{{Compat}}

# See also

- {{domxref("Document.createAttribute()")}}
- {{domxref("Element.getAttributeNode()")}}
- {{domxref("Element.removeAttributeNode()")}}

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