

Building User Interfaces

React 2

Building w/ React

Professor Bilge Mutlu

What we will learn today?

- Using Component Libraries with React
- Component development and reuse
- Dataflow among components

Using Component Libraries with React

Refresher: What are Component Libraries?¹

Definition: Software libraries that abstract away the low-level CSS implementation of user-facing elements.

Some popular libraries:

- * Bootstrap <
- * Foundation -
- * Semantic UI -
- * Pure -
- * UIKit -
- Art. Design -

¹react-bootstrap

Integrating Bootstrap into React



Three methods:

1. Using the CDN <
2. Bootstrap dependency <
3. React Bootstrap package ➡ preferred method <

CDN-based Use

As we did to use it with JS, add to public/index.html:

```
<link rel="stylesheet"
href="https://stackpath.bootstrapcdn.com/bootstrap/4.3.1/css/bootstrap.min.css"
integrity="sha384-ggOyR0iXCbMQv3Xipma34MD+dH/1fQ784/j6cY/iJTQU0hcWr7x9JvoRxT2MZw1T"
crossorigin="anonymous">
```

link

...

```
<script src="https://code.jquery.com/jquery-3.3.1.slim.min.js"
integrity="sha384-q8i/X+965Dz00rT7abK41JStQIAqVgRVzpbzo5smXKp4YfRvH+8abtTE1Pi6jizo"
crossorigin="anonymous"></script>
<script src="https://cdnjs.cloudflare.com/ajax/libs/popper.js/1.14.7/umd/popper.min.js"
integrity="sha384-U02eT0CpHqdSJQ6hJty5KVphtPhzWj9W01clHTMGa3JDZwrnQq4sF86dIHNDz0W1"
crossorigin="anonymous"></script>
<script src="https://stackpath.bootstrapcdn.com/bootstrap/4.3.1/js/bootstrap.min.js"
integrity="sha384-JjSmVgyd0p3pXB1rRibZUAYoIIy6OrQ6VrjIEaFf/nJGzIxFDsf4x0xIM+B07jRM"
crossorigin="anonymous"></script>
```

script

Bootstrap Dependency

Install Bootstrap as a dependency:

```
npm install bootstrap <
```

Include in your app's entry JS file, e.g., src/index.js:

```
import 'bootstrap/dist/css/bootstrap.min.css'; <
```

React Bootstrap packages

↘ Using: react-bootstrap¹:

npm install react-bootstrap bootstrap

➤ import { Button } from 'react-bootstrap';
↑

↘ Using reactstrap²:

npm install --save reactstrap react react-dom

> import { Button } from 'reactstrap';

¹react-bootstrap

²reactstrap

Quiz 1

Complete the Canvas quiz.



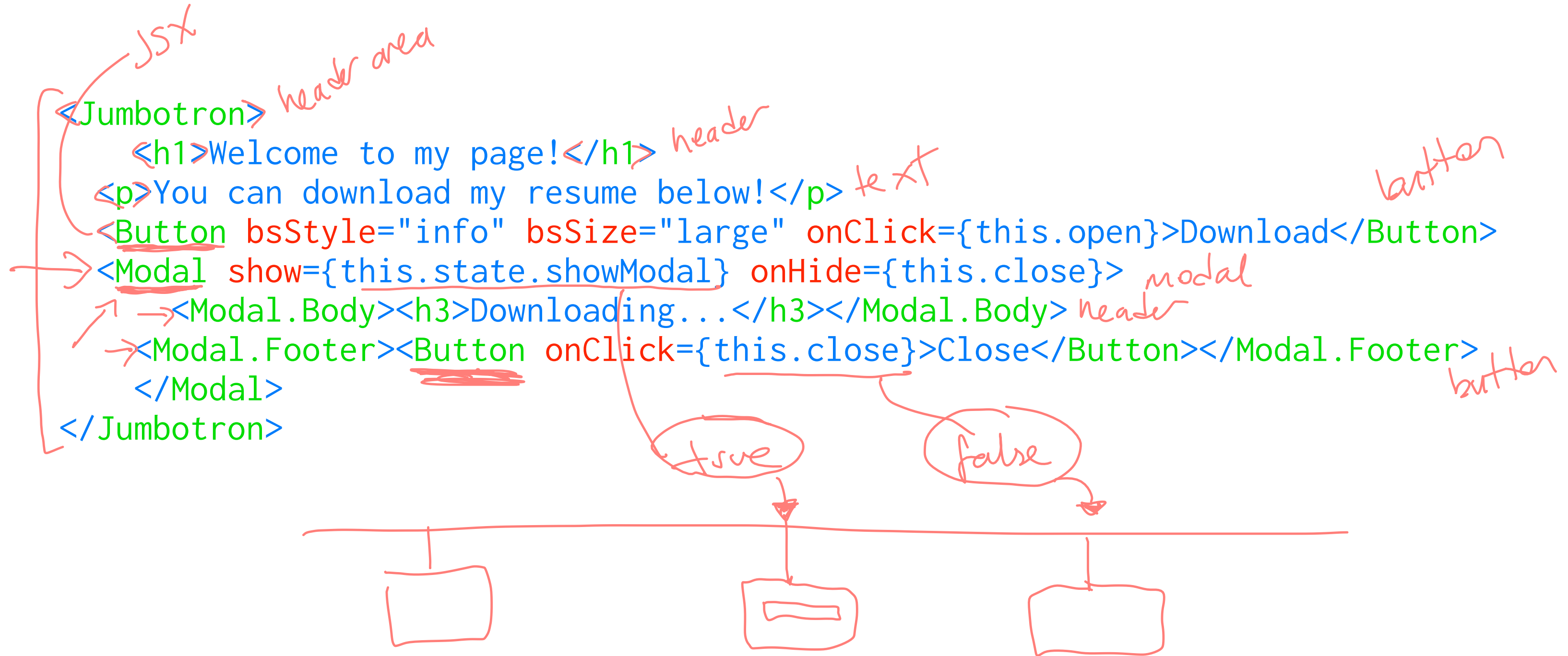
canvas

A Very Simple React App³

```
ReactDOM.render(  
  <h1 className="jumbotron">Welcome to my Page!</h1>,  
  document.getElementById('welcome') );
```

³See in CodePen

Back to My Home Page Example⁴



⁴ See in CodePen

Component Development and Reuse

Refresher: React.Component

Definition: A React component is a function or class that accepts an input and returns a React element.

```
class Welcome extends React.Component {  
  render() {  
    → return <h1>Hello, {this.props.name}</h1>;  
  }  
}
```

output

<Welcome name="Professor Mutlu">

input

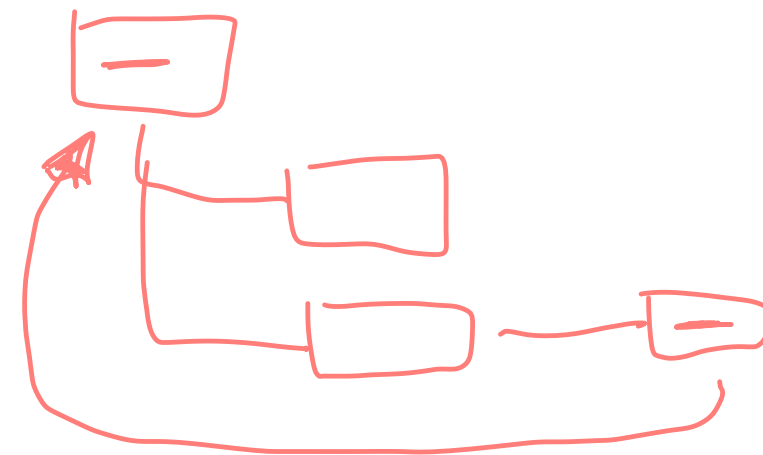
Refresher: React.Component, Continued

Components work like JS functions; they accept props and return React elements that correspond to what will be rendered in the DOM.

Each component is encapsulated (one component per file) and can operate independently, affording modularity.

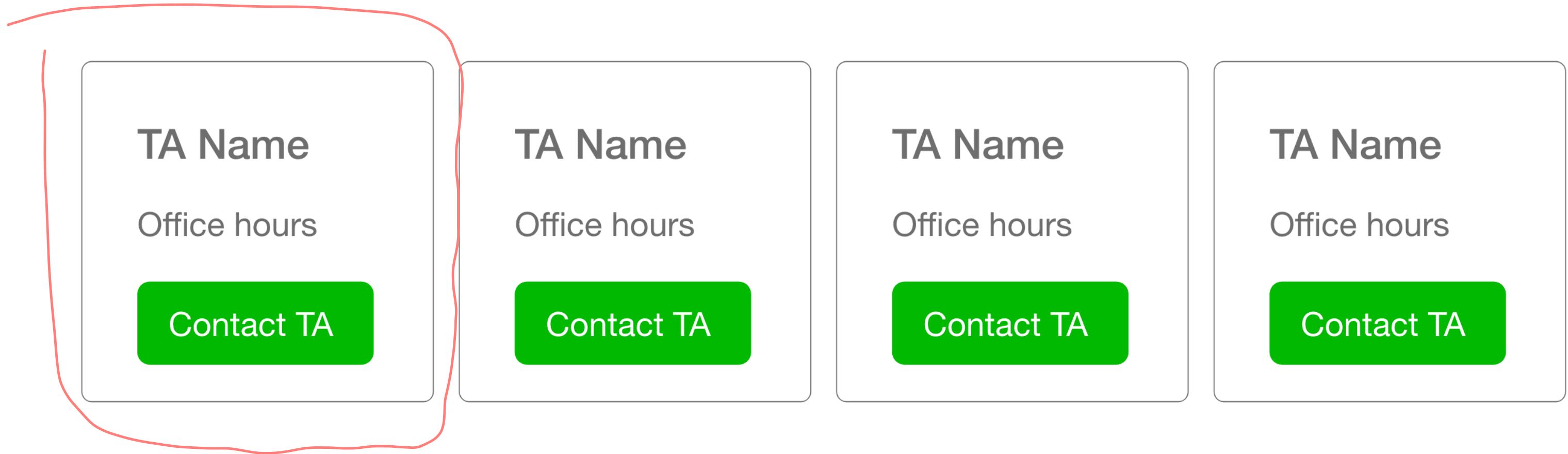
"Thinking in React"⁵

1. Mock-up design
2. Break the UI into a component hierarchy
3. Build a static version
4. Identify the minimal set of mutable state <
5. Identify where your state should live
6. Add inverse data flow



→ ⁵ ReactJS.org: Thinking in React

Step 1: Mock-up design⁶



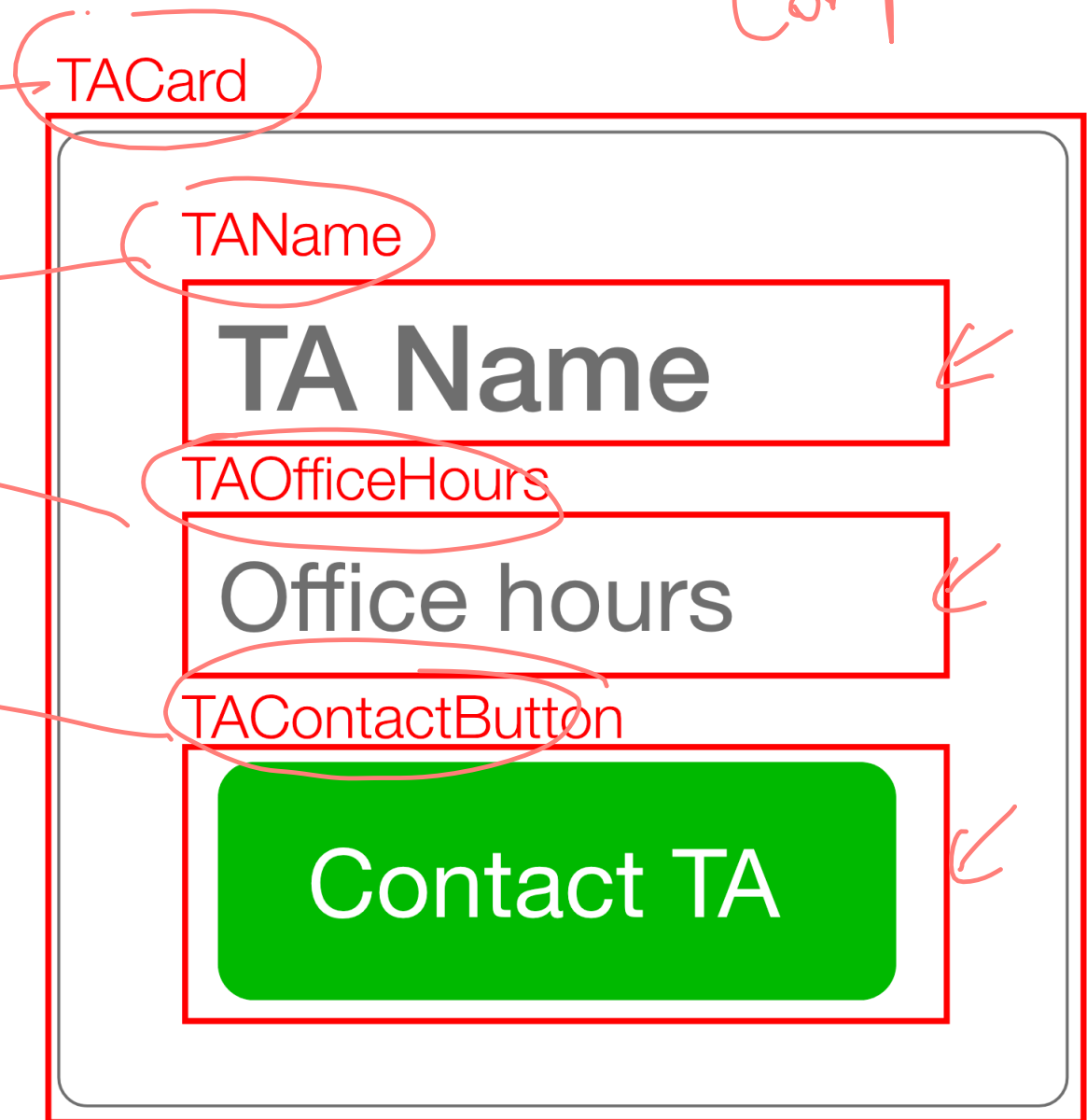
⁶See in StackBlitz

Step 2: Break UI into Component Hierarchy

- TACard
- TName
- TAOfficeHours
- TAContactButton

~ Child

Note: This example is only illustrative. In a real development scenario, we would not dedicate components to, e.g., single text fields.

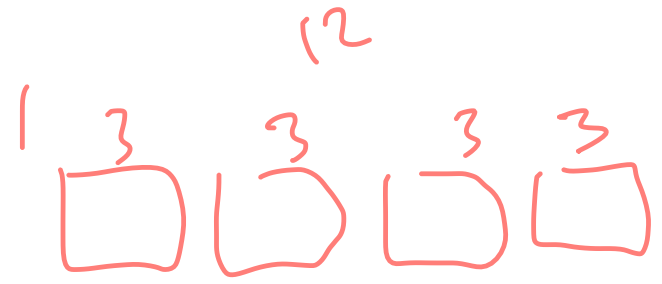


Quiz 2

Complete the Canvas quiz.



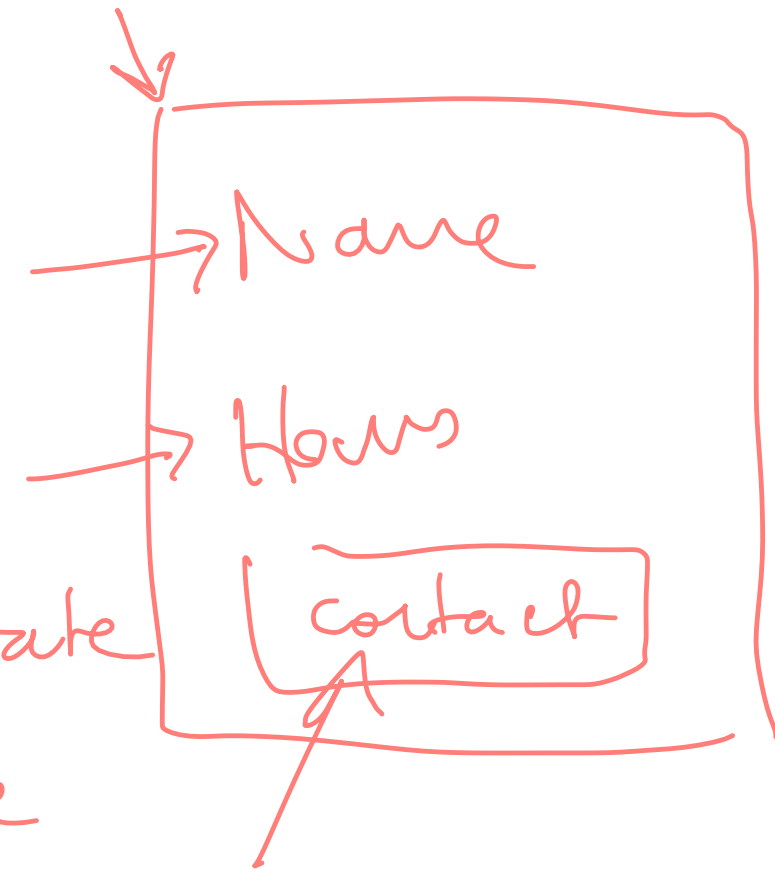
Step 3: Build A Static Version



```
<div className={"col-sm-3"}>
  <div className={"card border-default mx-1"}>
    <div className="card-body">
      <h6 className="TA-name">Andy Schoen</h6>
      <p className="TA-office-hours">Tue, 3-5 pm</p>
      <button className={"btn btn-success"}>{"Contact Andy"}</button>
    </div>
  </div>
</div>
```

Step 4: Identify the Minimal Mutable State

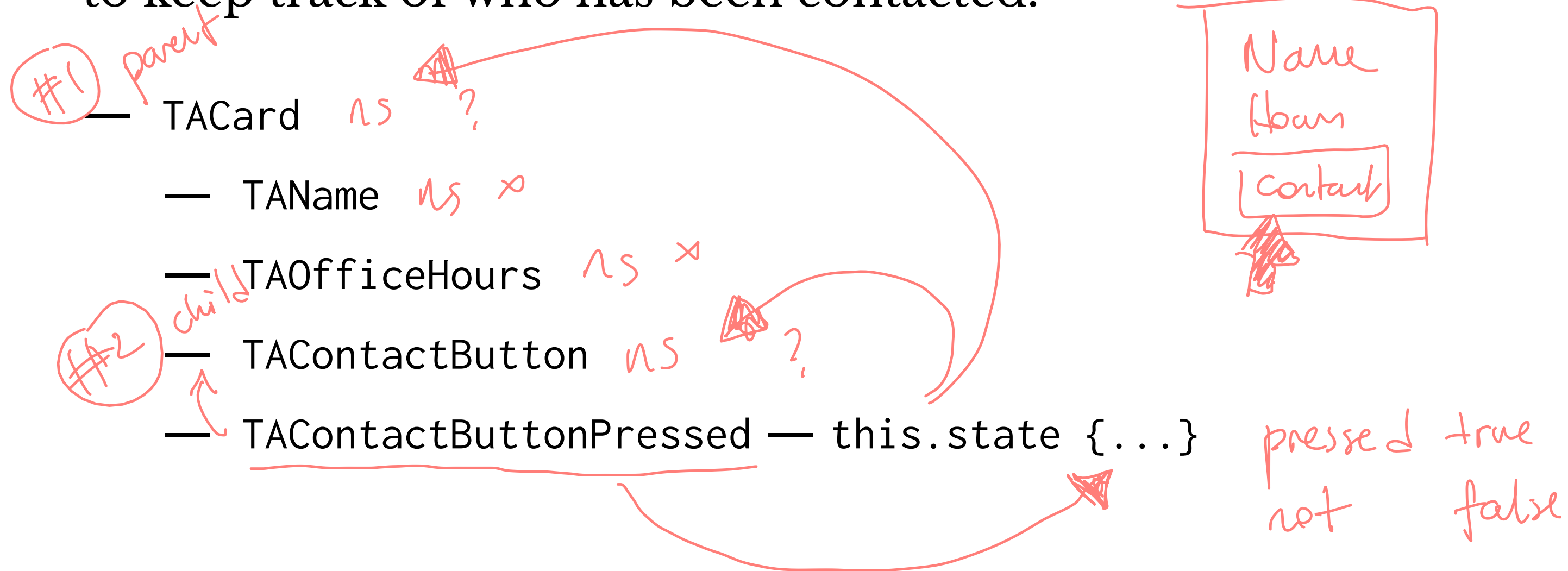
- TACard — Card container *no state*
- TName — TA name text *no state*
- TAOfficeHours — TA office hours text *no state*
- TAContactButton — TA button text *no state*



We don't actually need to use state for any of these!

Step 4: Identify the Minimal Mutable State

Let's say that the button will change colors if the user contacts a TA to keep track of who has been contacted.

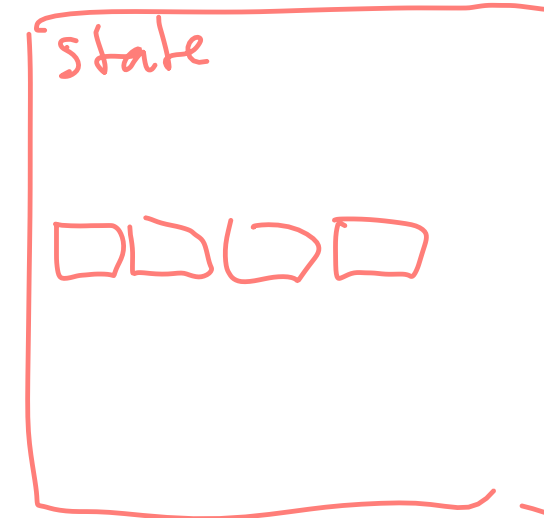


Step 5: Identify Where the State Should Live

There are three options:

1. App keeps track of the button state for each TAContactButton
2. TACard keeps track of the button state for its TAContactButton
3. A dedicated TAContactButton component tracks its own state

All options will work, #3 is most aligned with *the React way*.



Step 6: Add Inverse Data Flow (more on this in a bit)

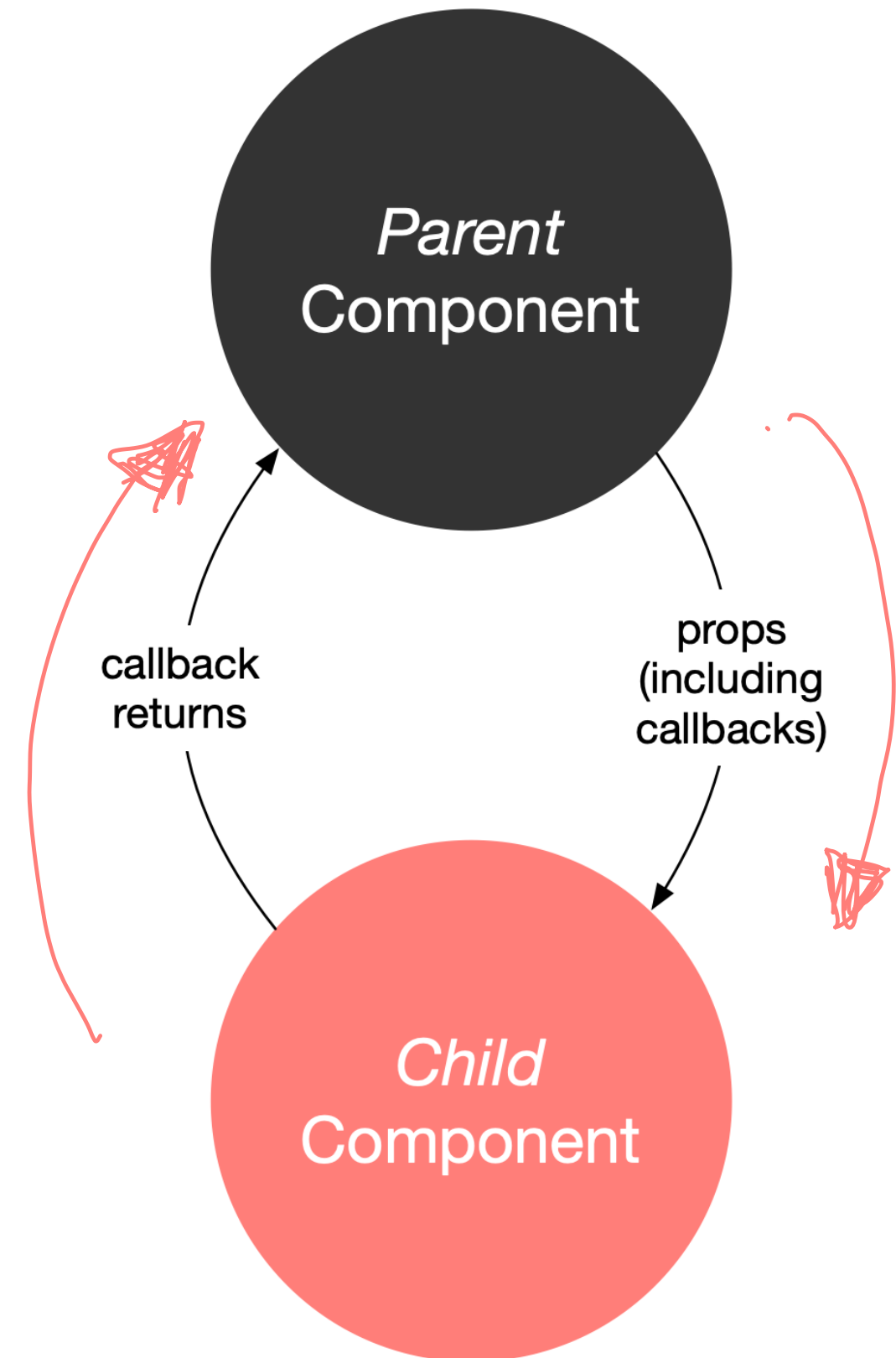
- App *super parent*
 - CardComponent *parent*
 - ButtonComponent *child*
 - CardComponent
 - ButtonComponent

Information Flow in React

Information flow is achieved using props and callbacks:

1. Parents pass props (including *callbacks*) to children
2. When executed, e.g., by being triggered by events, callbacks return information to the parent

More on this later in the lecture...



➤ Parent (CardComponent) callback:

```
<ButtonComponent  
  TAContectButtonText={this.state.TAContectButtonText}  
  callbackFromCard={this.buttonCallback}/>
```

```
— buttonCallback = () => {  
    this.setState({ buttonCallBackMessage : "Connecting..." })  
}
```

➤ Child (ButtonComponent) response (called by onClick):

```
— this.props.callbackFromCard(this.state.TAContectButtonPressed);
```

More on Components

- Class vs. functional components
- Fragments
- Controlled vs. uncontrolled components
- Passing methods through props

Class vs. Functional Components

A React Class component: ✓

```
class Welcome extends React.Component {  
  render() {  
    return <h1>Hello, {this.props.name}</h1>;  
  }  
}
```

/src/ =
/src/component/ =
/src/functions/ =

A React functional component (essentially a JS function): ↙

```
function Welcome(props) {  
  return <h1>Hello, {props.name}</h1>;  
}
```

Benefits of Functional Components

- *Easier to write, read, and debug*
- *Code modularity* by keeping functional and representational elements separate
- *More efficient* to write and to run, as functional components involve less code

Pro Tip 1: A rule of thumb is that your component is not going to have or keep track of any states, using functional components simplifies implementation.

Pro Tip 2: Create a components folder for Class and functional components, including one Component per file, to maximize modularity and code reuse.

Fragments⁷

Definition: Fragments are React constructs that can group child components without adding extra nodes to the DOM.

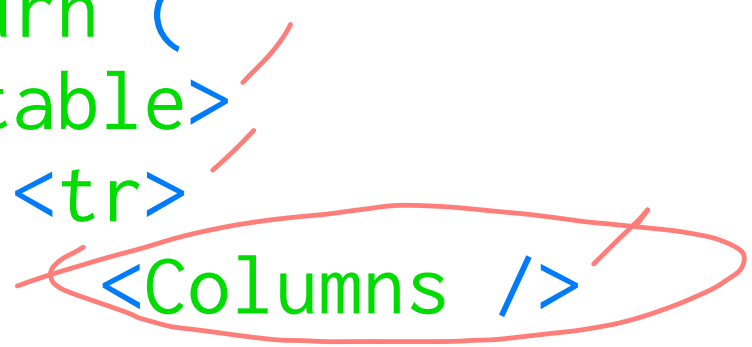
Benefits: Shortens code, reduces DOM complexity, and increases efficiency.

⁷ ReactJS.org: [Fragments](#)

An example

Imagine creating a table ...

```
class Table extends React.Component {  
  render() {  
    return (  
      <table>  
        <tr>  
          <Columns />  
        </tr>  
      </table>  
    );  
  }  
}
```



... and using a Columns component...

```
class Columns extends React.Component {  
  render() {  
    return (  
      <div>  
        <td>Hello</td>  
        <td>World</td>  
      </div>  
    );  
  }  
}
```

Handwritten annotations:


- A red bracket on the left side of the `return` statement spans from `return` to `);`.
- A red circle around `<div>` with a line pointing to it from the word *contains*.
- A red circle around `<td>` with a line pointing to it from the phrase *not a contains*.

... the output of `<Table />` would be:

```
<table>  
  <tr>  
    <div>  
      <td>Hello</td>  
      <td>World</td>  
    </div>  
  </tr>  
</table>
```

Do you see a problem here?

<div>s explosion! Fragments address this problem using the construct `<React.Fragment>` or `<>`.⁸

```
class Columns extends React.Component {  
  render() {  
    return (  
      <React.Fragment>   
        <td>Hello</td>  
        <td>World</td>  
      </React.Fragment>  
    );  
  }  
}
```

⁸See example in CodePen

... this React code would produce the following DOM representation:

```
<table>  
  <tr>div  
    <td>Hello</td>  
    <td>World</td>  
  </tr>  
</table>
```

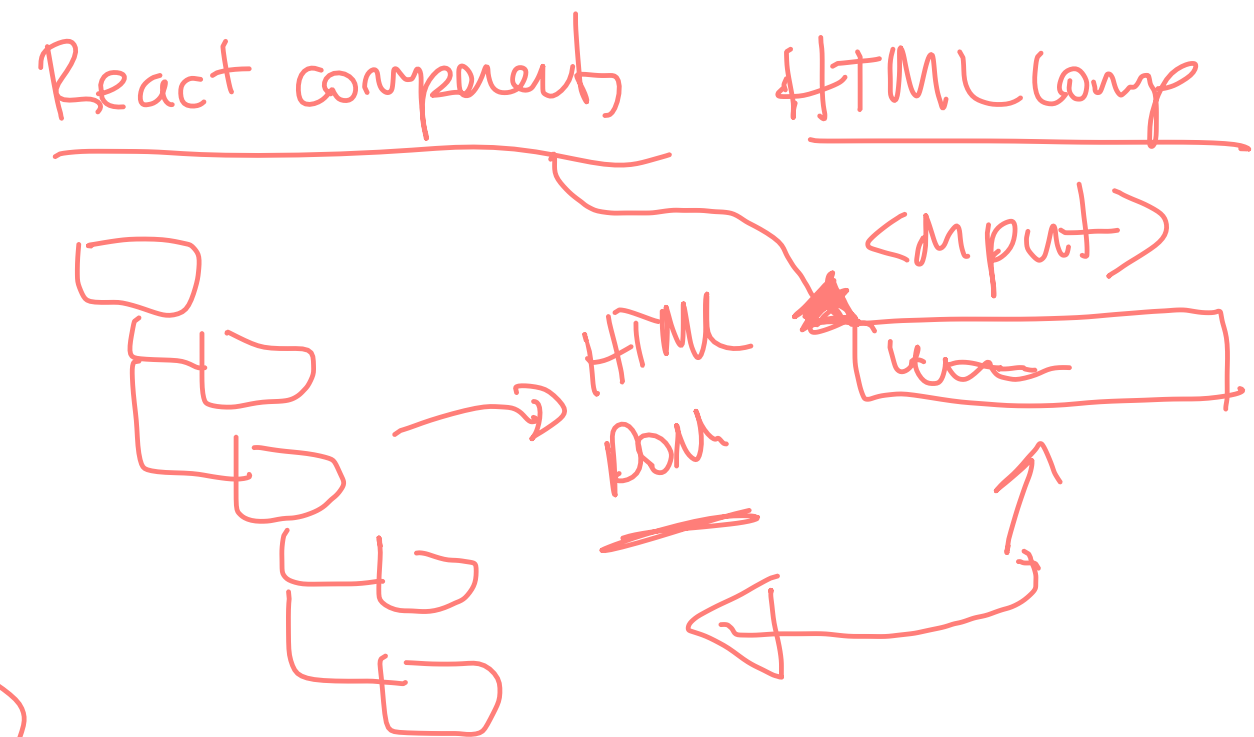
Look ma, no undesired divs!

Controlled vs. Uncontrolled Components

Definition: The states of *controlled* components are managed by React. User input elements, e.g., <input>, <textarea>, <select>, are *uncontrolled* when they manage their own states. We can use refs to give React access to DOM elements.

```
constructor(props) {  
  super(props);  
  this.input = React.createRef();  
}
```

```
<input type="text" ref={this.input} />
```



Pro Tip: With user input elements, we can let the DOM do the work for us and "pull" the values from the form when we need them, e.g., when a form is submitted, rather than constantly tracking changes through the React state.⁹

```
<div>  
  <input type="text" ref={input => this.name = input} />  
  <button onClick={this.handleSubmitClick}>Sign up</button>  
</div>
```

⁹ More on Uncontrolled Components

Passing Functions Through Props

We have been using props to pass data into child components, but props can also be used to pass *functions*, *event handlers*, and *event callbacks* (more on this in a little bit).

```
<button onClick={this.handleClick}>
```

Another Example

In the constructor() of App:

```
this.state = {buttonColor: 'btn btn-success' };  
this.updateColor = this.updateColor.bind(this);
```

In the render():

```
<ContactButton buttonColor={this.state.buttonColor}  
updateButtonColor={this.updateColor}/>
```

An independent function:

```
updateColor() {  
  this.setState({  
    buttonColor : 'btn btn-danger'  
  });  
}
```

In the ContactButton class:¹⁰

```
<React.Fragment>  
  <button class={props.buttonColor} onClick={props.updateButtonColor}>  
    Contact Customer Service  
  </button>  
</React.Fragment>
```

App gives ContactButton access to its updateColor() function by passing it through props.

¹⁰ See on StackBlitz

`this.bind()`


Definition: *Binding*, through `this.<functionName>.bind(this)`, clarifies that the scope of the function that is passed to children component is within the parent component.

```
this.updateColor = this.updateColor.bind(this);
```

...

```
<ContactButton buttonColor={this.state.buttonColor}  
updateButtonColor={this.updateColor}/>
```

Pro Tip 1: Binding is usually done in the constructor(), but it can also be done within render(), although render() creates a new function every time the component renders (inefficient).

 *Pro Tip 2:* Make sure that you are not *calling* the function, which will call the function every time components are rendered, but instead *passing* the function.

Example of *calling* (top) and *passing* (bottom) functions:

```
<button onClick={this.updateColor()}>Contact Customer Service</button>
```

```
<button onClick={this.updateColor}>Contact Customer Service</button>
```

Quiz 3

Complete the Canvas quiz.



canvas

Dataflow between Components

Why is dataflow necessary?¹¹

Interactivity, modularity, and hierarchical construction necessitate dataflow among components.

- App
 - CardComponent
 - CardComponent

Can be *parent-to-child*, *child-to-parent*, and *sibling-to-sibling*.

¹¹ Ruth Pardee: Passing Data between React Components

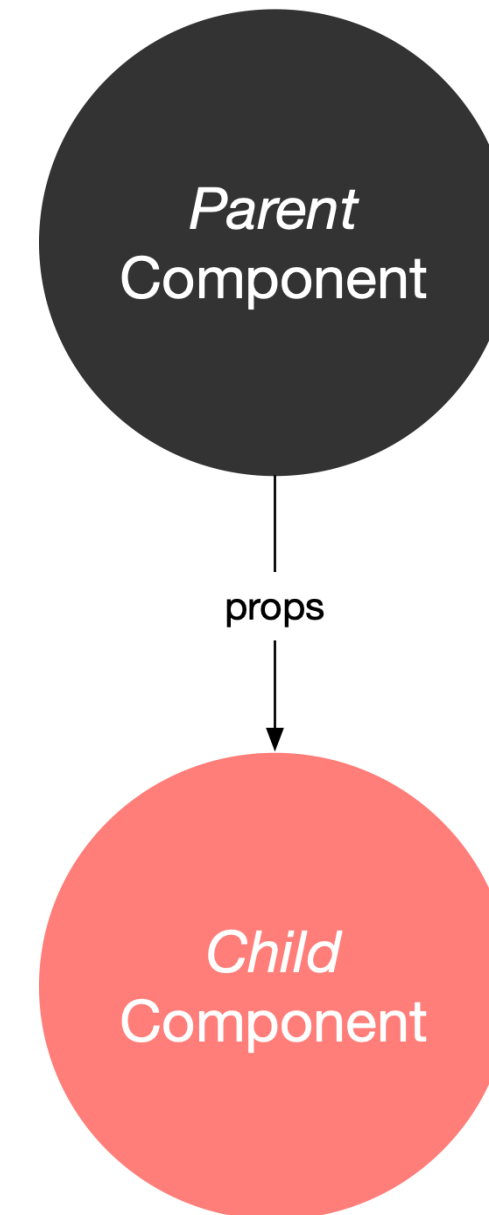
Parent-to-Child Dataflow

This is the easiest case — use props!

```
<CardComponent TAContectButtonText={"Contact John"}/>
```

```
constructor(props) {  
  super(props);  
  this.state = {  
    TAContectButtonText:  
    this.props.TAContectButtonText,  
  };  
}
```

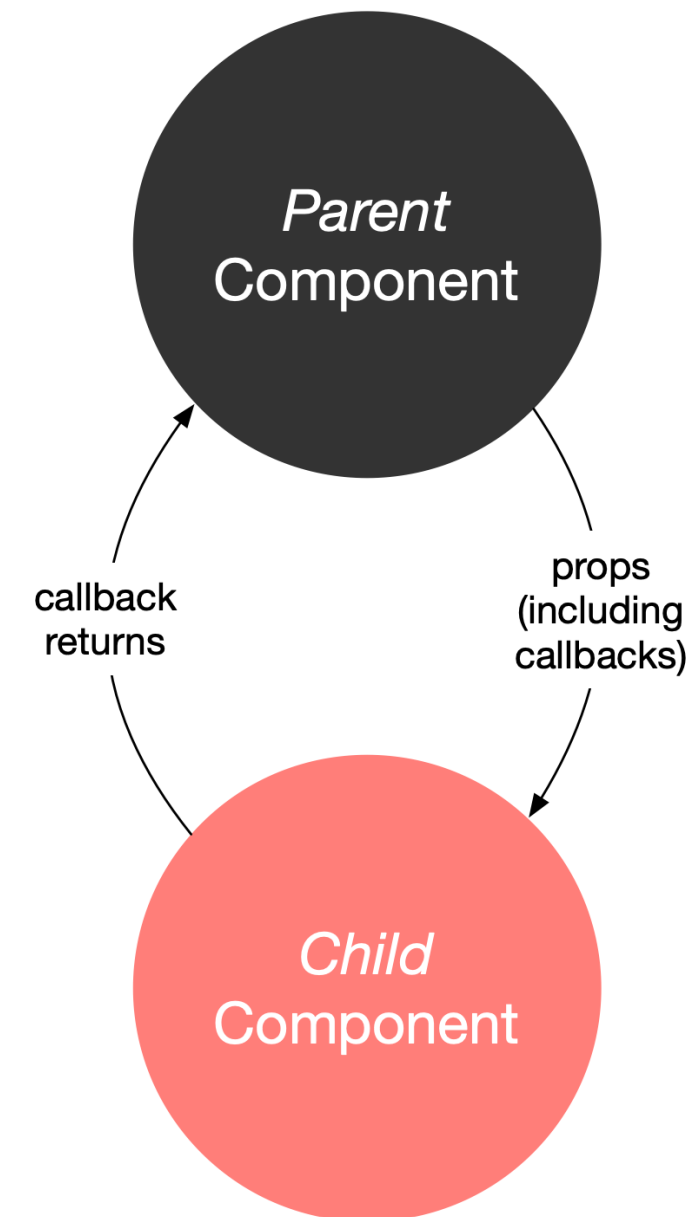
```
<ButtonComponent  
TAContectButtonText={this.state.TAContectButtonText}/>
```



Child-to-Parent Dataflow

This is the more challenging case:

1. Define a callback function in the parent
2. Define a parameter in the callback function for the data that the child will pass
3. Pass the callback as a prop to the child
4. Call the callback using `this.props.<callback-function-name>` in the child and pass the data as the argument



Parent callback:

```
<ButtonComponent callbackFromCard={this.buttonCallback}/>
```

```
buttonCallback = (dataFromButton) => {  
  dataFromButton ?  
    this.setState({ buttonCallbackMessage: "" }) :  
    this.setState({ buttonCallbackMessage: "Connecting..." })  
}
```

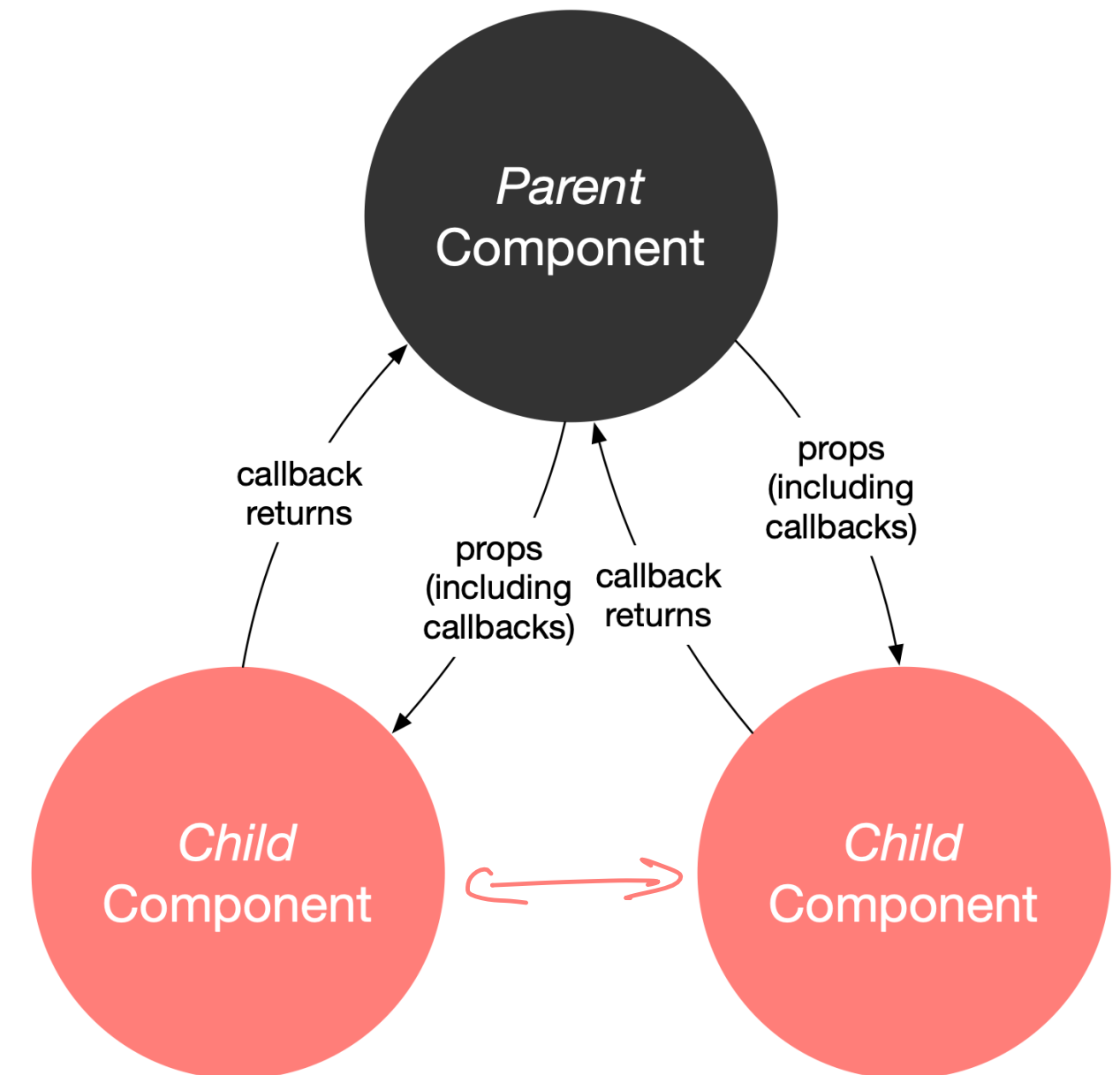
Using the passed callback on the child:

```
this.props.callbackFromCard(this.state.TAContectButtonPressed);
```


Sibling-to-Sibling Dataflow

This case combines both approaches:

1. Identify a parent that can serve as an intermediary
2. Pass data from the child to the parent using a callback
3. Set this data as a state for the parent
4. Pass the data from the state to the other child as prop



Pro Tip: These approaches do not scale well into large applications. Redux (for JS) and React-Redux (for React) help you manage the state of the application. It works like a global object that holds information that can be used across the various components of the application.

Resources:

- React Redux documentation
- The only introduction to Redux you'll ever need
- A complete React Redux tutorial for beginners

What we learned today:

- Using Component Libraries with React
- Component development and reuse
- Dataflow among components