

## 1. Why the need of Set?

In JavaScript, we often use arrays to store collections of values. But arrays allow **duplicates**, and checking for existence or ensuring uniqueness is **slow** (`includes()` has to loop through the array).

**So, we need set when:**

- We want to **store unique values only**
- We need **fast lookups**
- We want to **remove duplicates from an array**
- We need to **perform mathematical set operations** like union, intersection, difference

## 2. What is the purpose of Set?

The purpose of a `Set` is to provide a **collection of values where each value is unique**. It helps with:

- **Enforcing uniqueness** (e.g., no duplicate user IDs)
- **Quick existence checks** (`set.has(value)` is faster than `array.includes(value)`)
- **Efficient data structures** for membership checking
- Performing **set-theory-like operations** (e.g., union, intersection)

## 3. What is a Set in JavaScript?

A `Set` is a **built-in object** (introduced in ES6) that lets you store **unique values** of any type — primitive values or object references.

Unlike arrays:


- `Set` does **not** allow duplicate values
- Elements are **not indexed**
- Insertion order is preserved

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### 4. How can it be created, accessed, modified, and inserted?

#### Create a Set


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```
const set1 = new Set();           // empty set
const set2 = new Set([1, 2, 3, 3]); // removes duplicates → Set {1, 2, 3}
```

#### Insert elements — `.add(value)`

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```
set1.add(10);
set1.add("apple");
set1.add(10); // ignored, already exists
```

#### ✓ Access elements — `.has(value)`

javascript

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```
set1.has(10);      // true
set1.has("banana") // false
```

#### ✓ Modify / Delete elements — `.delete(value)`

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```
set1.delete(10); // removes 10 if exists
```

#### ✓ Get all values — iteration

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```
for (let item of set1) {
  console.log(item);
}
```

#### ✓ Clear all elements — `.clear()`

javascript

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```
set1.clear(); // removes all values
```

#### ✓ Get size — `.size`

javascript

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```
console.log(set1.size); // number of elements
```

## 5. How it actually works (under the hood)?

### Internals of a Set:

- A Set internally stores values using a **hash-based structure** (similar to a hash table).
- When you **add a value**, it checks if it already exists:
  - If **not present**, it stores it.
  - If **already present**, it ignores it.
- Unlike arrays, values in Sets are **compared by reference** (for objects) and **by value** (for primitives).
- The order of insertion is maintained, which allows predictable iteration.

## 🔍 Examples:

### 🔧 Primitive values

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```
const set = new Set();
set.add(1);
set.add(1); // duplicate, won't be added
console.log(set); // Set { 1 }
```

### 🔧 Object references

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```
const obj1 = { a: 1 };
const obj2 = { a: 1 };

const set = new Set();
set.add(obj1);
set.add(obj2); // different reference → added
console.log(set.size); // 2
```

Even though `obj1` and `obj2` look the same, they are **different objects** in memory.

## ✅ Summary Table


Action	Method / Property	Example
Create	<code>new Set([values])</code>	<code>new Set([1, 2, 3])</code>
Add	<code>.add(value)</code>	<code>set.add(5)</code>
Check Exists	<code>.has(value)</code>	<code>set.has(5)</code>
Remove	<code>.delete(value)</code>	<code>set.delete(5)</code>
Clear All	<code>.clear()</code>	<code>set.clear()</code>
Size	<code>.size</code>	<code>set.size</code>
Iterate	<code>for...of</code> , <code>forEach</code>	<code>for (let v of set) {}</code>

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## Use Cases

- Remove duplicates from an array:


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```
const arr = [1, 2, 2, 3];
const unique = [...new Set(arr)];
console.log(unique); // [1, 2, 3]
```

- Fast lookups:


javascript

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```
const visited = new Set();
visited.add("home");
if (!visited.has("about")) {
  visited.add("about");
}
```

- Set operations (manual):

javascript

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```
const a = new Set([1, 2, 3]);
const b = new Set([3, 4, 5]);

const union = new Set([...a, ...b]);
const intersection = new Set([...a].filter(x => b.has(x)));
const difference = new Set([...a].filter(x => !b.has(x)));
```

## Summary Table

Method / Property	Description	Returns
<code>new Set(iterable)</code>	Creates a new Set	New Set object
<code>.add(value)</code>	Adds a new unique value	The Set itself (for chaining)
<code>.delete(value)</code>	Removes specified value	<code>true</code> if removed, else <code>false</code>
<code>.has(value)</code>	Checks if value exists	<code>true</code> or <code>false</code>
<code>.clear()</code>	Removes all elements	<code>undefined</code>
<code>.size</code>	Number of unique elements	Number
<code>.values()</code>	Iterator over values	Iterator
<code>.keys()</code>	Same as <code>.values()</code>	Iterator
<code>.entries()</code>	Iterator over <code>[value, value]</code> pairs	Iterator
<code>.forEach(callback, thisArg?)</code>	Calls callback for each value	<code>undefined</code>