

JavaScript learning path

Perfect  Let's move to the next part of destructuring —

 Special Use Cases & Gotchas that often confuse even experienced developers.

Special Use Cases of Destructuring

1. Swapping Variables

Classic trick with array destructuring:

js

```
let a = 1, b = 2;  
[a, b] = [b, a];  
console.log(a, b); // 2, 1
```

 Internally: engine just makes a temporary array and reassigned.

2. Destructuring Strings

Strings are iterable → destructuring works:

js

```
const [x, y, z] = "hey";  
console.log(x, y, z); // h e y
```

Also works with object style (string has properties):

js

```
const { length } = "hello";  
console.log(length); // 5
```

3. Destructuring in Loops

Useful for iterating over objects/arrays:

```
js
```

```
const users = [  
  { id: 1, name: "Alice" },  
  { id: 2, name: "Bob" }  
];  
  
for (const { id, name } of users) {  
  console.log(id, name);  
}
```

✓ Cleaner than `user.id`, `user.name` inside loop.

4. Setting Defaults in Function Params

```
js
```

```
function connect({ host = "localhost", port = 80 } = {}){  
  console.log(host, port);  
}  
  
connect(); // localhost 80  
connect({ host: "127.0.0.1" }); // 127.0.0.1 80
```

⚠ Without the `= {}` default, calling `connect()` would crash (`Cannot destructure undefined`).

5. Ignoring Values with Commas

```
js
```

```
const [a, , b] = [1, 2, 3];  
console.log(a, b); // 1 3
```

Or with objects:

```
js
```

```
const { x, ...rest } = { x: 1, y: 2, z: 3 };  
console.log(rest); // { y: 2, z: 3 }
```

6. Destructuring with Dynamic Keys

js

```
const key = "age";
const { [key]: userAge } = { name: "Sam", age: 25 };
console.log(userAge); // 25
```

- ✓ Handy when property names are not known until runtime.

7. Nested Default Values

js

```
const { profile: { city = "Unknown" } = {} } = {};
console.log(city); // "Unknown"
```

- ✓ Avoids `Cannot read property of undefined` error.

⚠ Gotchas

1. Primitive Destructuring

js

```
const { toString } = 123;
console.log(toString); // function from Number.prototype
```

- ✓ Works because primitives are auto-boxed (wrapped in objects).

2. Invalid Left-Hand Side

js

```
{(a) = { a: 10 }}; // ✓ ok
{ a } = { a: 10 }; // ✗ SyntaxError
```

- ⚠ Why? → Without `()`, JS thinks `{}` starts a block, not destructuring.

3. Duplicate Variables

js

```
const { a, a } = { a: 1 };
// ✗ SyntaxError: Duplicate declaration
```

✓ So, destructuring is **very flexible**, but pitfalls appear when mixing with defaults, nested structures, or unusual left-hand assignments.

👉 Do you want me to now go **deeper into “Performance Pitfalls & Best Practices”** of destructuring (where it can hurt speed or readability), or move on to **next ES6 feature (like Spread & Rest operators)?**