

Excellent. I'll now **rewrite Polymorphism** in the **same refined, clean, deep-but-simple PDF-style** as the previous three (Encapsulation, Inheritance, Abstraction).

This version will fix **common misconceptions**, explain **runtime dispatch internally**, and make it **interview-grade**.

Polymorphism in JavaScript — Deep but Simple (PDF-Style)

♦ 1. What is Polymorphism? (Core Idea)

Definition

Polymorphism means **one interface, many forms**.

- 👉 Same method name
- 👉 Different behavior
- 👉 Decided at **runtime**

Word Breakdown

- **Poly** → many
- **Morph** → forms

One-Line Meaning

Polymorphism allows different objects to respond **differently to the same method call**.

Internal Perspective

- JavaScript supports **runtime polymorphism**
- Achieved via:
 - prototype chain
 - method overriding
- JS does **NOT** support compile-time polymorphism

✅ Key Takeaway

Polymorphism = dynamic method selection.

⚠️ Interview Trap

JavaScript does NOT support method overloading like Java/C++.

♦ 2. Polymorphism vs Overloading vs Overriding

Important Distinction

Concept	JavaScript Support
Method Overloading	✗ Not supported
Method Overriding	✓ Supported
Runtime Polymorphism	✓ Supported

🔍 Why Overloading Doesn't Exist in JS

js

```
function add(a, b) {}  
function add(a, b, c) {} // overwrites previous
```

- JS functions are objects
- Last definition wins
- No signature-based dispatch

✓ Key Takeaway

Polymorphism in JS is achieved via **overriding**, not overloading.

♦ 3. What is Method Overriding?

Definition

Method overriding occurs when:

- Parent and child have methods with **same name**
- Child provides its **own implementation**

Rule

Child method **overrides** parent method.

♦ 4. Polymorphism via Method Overriding (Classic Example)

Parent Class

js

```
class Shape {  
  area() {  
    return "Area depends on shape";  
  }  
}
```

Child Classes

js

```
class Circle extends Shape {  
  area(radius) {  
    return 3.14 * radius * radius;  
  }  
}  
  
class Rectangle extends Shape {  
  area(length, width) {  
    return length * width;  
  }  
}
```

Usage

js

```
const c = new Circle();  
const r = new Rectangle();  
  
c.area(5); // 78.5  
r.area(5, 10); // 50
```

Internal Behavior (VERY IMPORTANT)

When `c.area()` is called:

1. JS looks for `area` in `Circle.prototype`
2. Found → executes it
3. Parent method is ignored

javascript

```
c  
↓  
Circle.prototype (area ✓)  
↓  
Shape.prototype
```

✓ Key Takeaway

Method resolution is based on **object's actual type**, not reference.

⚠ Interview Trap

Method lookup happens at **runtime**, not compile time.

♦ 5. Runtime Polymorphism (Core Mechanism)

Why It's Called Runtime Polymorphism

- JS decides **which method to execute at runtime**
- Decision depends on:
 - object instance
 - prototype chain

```
js

function printArea(shape) {
  console.log(shape.area());
}
```

```
js

printArea(new Circle());
printArea(new Rectangle());
```

🔍 Internal Insight

- Same function call
- Different objects
- Different behavior

✅ Key Takeaway

Polymorphism enables **dynamic behavior switching**.

♦ 6. Using `super` in Overridden Methods

Purpose

Extend parent behavior instead of replacing it.

Example

```
js

class MathOps {
  calculate(a, b) {
    console.log("Add:", a + b);
  }
}
```

```
class AdvancedMath extends MathOps {
  calculate(a, b) {
    super.calculate(a, b);
    console.log("Multiply:", a * b);
  }
}
```

Usage

```
js

const m = new AdvancedMath();
m.calculate(10, 5);
```

Internal Behavior

- `super.calculate()` looks in parent prototype
- Executes parent method first
- Then executes child logic

Key Takeaway

`super` allows **behavior extension**, not duplication.

Interview Trap

`super` refers to **parent prototype**, not parent object.

◆ 7. Polymorphism Without Classes (Prototype-Based)

```
js

const animal = {
  speak() {
    return "Animal sound";
  }
};

const dog = Object.create(animal);
dog.speak = function () {
  return "Bark";
};

dog.speak(); // "Bark"
```

Internal Behavior

- JS checks `dog` first
- Finds overridden method
- Parent method remains untouched

✓ Key Takeaway

Polymorphism exists **even without classes**.

♦ 8. Why JavaScript Has No Compile-Time Polymorphism

Reasons

- No function signatures
- No type enforcement
- No method overloading

js

```
function test(a) {}  
function test(a, b) {} // replaces previous
```

✓ Key Takeaway

JavaScript is **dynamically typed**, so polymorphism is runtime-only.

♦ 9. Benefits of Polymorphism

✓ Code Reusability

Reuse parent logic via `super`

✓ Extensibility

Add new child classes without changing existing code

✓ Dynamic Behavior

Same interface, different outcomes

♦ 10. Common Interview Traps

- ✗ Polymorphism ≠ method overloading in JS
- ✗ Method selection is NOT compile-time
- ✓ Overriding works via prototype chain
- ✓ `super` works only in classes
- ✓ Private methods cannot be overridden

🧠 FINAL SUMMARY (EXAM + INTERVIEW)

- Polymorphism = one interface, many behaviors
- JavaScript supports runtime polymorphism

- Achieved using method overriding
- Method resolution is dynamic
- Prototype chain decides execution
- No compile-time polymorphism in JS
- Enables flexible, extensible designs

NEXT (Choose One)

Reply with **one word**:

- `oop-complete-summary`
- `js-oop-vs-java`
- `real-world-oop-design`
- `design-patterns-intro`

I'll continue with the **same clarity & depth**.