

TOPIC: Classes & OOP in JavaScript

(Syntax Sugar • Internals • Inheritance • `this` • Interview Traps)

NOTE 1: What `class` really is (truth)

- JavaScript **does NOT** become class-based
- `class` is **syntactic sugar** over:
 - constructor functions
 - prototypes
- Internally, JS still uses **prototypal inheritance**

👉 If you understand prototypes, you already understand classes.

NOTE 2: Why `class` was introduced

- Improve readability
- Familiar syntax for Java / C++ developers
- Reduce boilerplate for inheritance
- But **no new inheritance model**

CODE 1: Basic class syntax

```
js

class Person {
  constructor(name) {
    this.name = name;
  }

  greet() {
    console.log("Hi", this.name);
  }
}

const p = new Person("Anoop");
p.greet();
```

NOTE 3: What happens internally (IMPORTANT)

When you write a class:

- `constructor` → becomes the constructor function
- Methods → stored on `ClassName.prototype`
- `new`:

1. Creates empty object

2. Links `[[Prototype]]`

3. Binds `this`

4. Executes constructor

CODE 2: Internal equivalence (mental model)

js

```
function Person(name) {  
    this.name = name;  
}  
  
Person.prototype.greet = function () {  
    console.log("Hi", this.name);  
};
```

NOTE 4: Classes are NOT hoisted like functions

- Class declarations are hoisted
- BUT remain in **Temporal Dead Zone**
- Cannot be used before declaration

CODE 3: Hoisting behavior

js

```
// const p = new Person("A"); X ReferenceError  
  
class Person {  
    constructor(name) {  
        this.name = name;  
    }  
}
```

NOTE 5: Strict mode by default

- Code inside classes runs in **strict mode**
- Even without `"use strict"`
- Prevents accidental globals

CODE 4: Strict mode effect

js

```
class Test {  
    method() {
```

```
x = 10; // X ReferenceError (no implicit global)
}
}
```

■ NOTE 6: Instance properties vs prototype methods

- Properties defined in constructor → **per instance**
- Methods defined in class body → **shared via prototype**

■ CODE 5: Instance vs prototype

js

```
class User {
  constructor(name) {
    this.name = name; // instance property
  }

  greet() {
    console.log(this.name); // prototype method
  }
}
```

■ NOTE 7: **this** inside classes

- **this** refers to **instance**
- Determined by **call site**
- Same rules as regular functions

■ CODE 6: **this** trap

js

```
class Demo {
  show() {
    console.log(this);
  }
}

const d = new Demo();
const fn = d.show;

fn(); // undefined (or global in non-strict)
```

■ NOTE 8: Fixing **this** issues

Solutions:

- Bind in constructor
- Use arrow functions
- Call via instance

CODE 7: Binding `this`

```
js

class Demo {
  constructor() {
    this.show = this.show.bind(this);
  }

  show() {
    console.log(this);
  }
}
```

NOTE 9: Inheritance with `extends`

- `extends` sets prototype chain
- Child prototype → parent prototype
- Enables method reuse

CODE 8: Basic inheritance

```
js

class Animal {
  speak() {
    console.log("Animal sound");
  }
}

class Dog extends Animal {} 

const d = new Dog();
d.speak();
```

NOTE 10: `super` keyword (deep)

- `super()` → calls parent constructor
- Must be called **before using `this`**
- `super.method()` → calls parent method

CODE 9: `super` usage

js

```
class Animal {  
  constructor(type) {  
    this.type = type;  
  }  
}  
  
class Dog extends Animal {  
  constructor(name) {  
    super("Dog");  
    this.name = name;  
  }  
}
```

■ NOTE 11: Method overriding

- Child method with same name
- Overrides parent version
- Parent method still accessible via `super`

■ CODE 10: Method override

js

```
class Animal {  
  speak() {  
    console.log("Animal speaks");  
  }  
}  
  
class Dog extends Animal {  
  speak() {  
    super.speak();  
    console.log("Dog barks");  
  }  
}  
  
new Dog().speak();
```

■ NOTE 12: Static methods

- Belong to class, not instances
- Used for utility logic
- Not accessible via `this` of instance

CODE 11: Static method

js

```
class MathUtil {  
    static add(a, b) {  
        return a + b;  
    }  
}
```

```
MathUtil.add(2, 3); // 5
```

NOTE 13: Public fields (modern JS)

- Declared directly in class
- Part of instance
- No prototype involvement

CODE 12: Public field

js

```
class User {  
    role = "user";  
}
```

NOTE 14: Private fields (#)

- Truly private
- Enforced by language
- Not accessible outside class

CODE 13: Private field

js

```
class Account {  
    #balance = 0;  
  
    deposit(amount) {  
        this.#balance += amount;  
    }  
}
```

NOTE 15: Common interview traps

- Classes are not hoisted like functions

- Methods live on prototype
- `this` rules don't change
- `extends` sets prototype chain
- `class` ≠ classical inheritance

FINAL MENTAL MODEL

- `class` = cleaner syntax over prototypes
- No new inheritance model
- `new` + prototype = core mechanism
- `extends` wires prototype chain
- `this` still depends on call site
- Use classes for readability, not magic

STOP HERE

Next **recommended continuation:**

- 1 **Array Methods** (`map`, `filter`, `reduce`)
- 2 `this` keyword (ALL rules, very deep)
- 3 **Async JavaScript** (callbacks → promises → `async/await`)

Reply with **next** or the **number** you want to continue.