

TOPIC: Closures in JavaScript

(Lexical Environment • Memory Retention • Real-World Patterns • Interview Traps)

NOTE 1: What a closure **REALLY** is (definition)

A **closure** is created when:

- A function **remembers variables from its lexical scope**
- Even **after the outer function has finished execution**

👉 Closure = Function + its lexical environment

This is **not a feature you turn on** — it's a natural result of how JS works.

NOTE 2: Why closures exist (internal reason)

- JavaScript uses **lexical scoping**
- Inner functions store a **reference** to outer variables
- These references are kept in memory (heap)
- Garbage Collector **cannot remove** captured variables

CODE 1: Basic closure example

```
js

function outer() {
  let count = 0;

  function inner() {
    count++;
    console.log(count);
  }

  return inner;
}

return outer;
```

```
const fn = outer();
fn(); // 1
fn(); // 2
```

NOTE 3: What happens internally (step-by-step)

1. `outer()` is called
2. `count` is created in outer's lexical environment

3. `inner()` is returned
4. `outer()` execution context is popped from stack
5. BUT `count` remains in heap (captured)
6. `inner()` still has access to `count`

👉 This **memory retention** is the closure.

■ NOTE 4: Closures are NOT copies

- Variables are **not copied**
- Closures store **references**
- All closures over same scope share the same variable

■ CODE 2: Shared reference example

js

```
function counter() {
  let x = 0;

  return {
    inc() {
      x++;
      console.log(x);
    },
    dec() {
      x--;
      console.log(x);
    }
  };

  const c = counter();
  c.inc(); // 1
  c.inc(); // 2
  c.dec(); // 1
```

■ NOTE 5: Closure + loop (CLASSIC INTERVIEW)

Closures + `var` in loops cause bugs due to **shared scope**.

■ CODE 3: `var` closure problem

js

```
for (var i = 0; i < 3; i++) {  
    setTimeout(() => console.log(i), 0);  
}  
// 3 3 3
```

NOTE 6: Why this happens

- `var i` is **function-scoped**
- One shared `i`
- Loop finishes → `i = 3`
- All callbacks reference same `i`

CODE 4: Fix using `let`

js

```
for (let i = 0; i < 3; i++) {  
    setTimeout(() => console.log(i), 0);  
}  
// 0 1 2
```

NOTE 7: Why `let` fixes it

- `let` creates a **new binding per iteration**
- Each iteration has its own lexical environment

NOTE 8: Closure vs Scope (important distinction)

Concept	Meaning
Scope	Access rules
Closure	Memory retention
Lexical Environment	Where variables live

Closures **use scope**, but they are **not scope**.

CODE 5: Closure without returning function

js

```
function outer() {  
    let msg = "Hello";  
  
    setTimeout(function () {  
        console.log(msg);  
    }, 0);  
}
```

```
}, 1000);  
}  
  
outer();
```

■ NOTE 9: Closures in asynchronous code

- Timers
- Promises
- Event listeners
- Callbacks

All rely on closures to remember state.

■ NOTE 10: Real-world use cases (IMPORTANT)

Closures are used for:

- Data privacy
- State management
- Factory functions
- Currying
- Memoization
- Event handlers

■ CODE 6: Data privacy using closure

```
js  
  
function createUser() {  
  let password = "secret";  
  
  return {  
    check(pwd) {  
      return pwd === password;  
    }  
  };  
}  
  
const user = createUser();  
user.check("secret"); // true  
user.password; // undefined
```

■ NOTE 11: Closure memory risk (memory leaks)

- Closures keep variables alive

- Large objects captured = memory leaks
- Must release references when not needed

CODE 7: Potential memory leak

```
js

function heavy() {
  let bigData = new Array(1e6).fill("**");

  return function () {
    console.log("Using closure");
  };
}

const fn = heavy();
// bigData stays in memory as long as fn exists
```

NOTE 12: How to release closure memory

- Set references to `null`
- Remove event listeners
- Clear timers

CODE 8: Cleanup example

```
js

let fn = heavy();
fn = null; // allows garbage collection
```

NOTE 13: Closure ≠ memory leak (INTERVIEW)

- Closures are **intentional**
- Memory leaks occur when:
 - Closures are unnecessary
 - References are not cleaned

NOTE 14: Common interview traps

- Closure remembers variable, not value
- `let` creates per-iteration binding
- Closures exist even without `return`
- Garbage collector keeps closed-over variables
- Closures are everywhere in JS

FINAL MENTAL MODEL

- Closure = function + remembered scope
- Variables are kept by reference
- Memory lives in heap, not stack
- Closures power async JS
- Must manage memory responsibly

 STOP HERE

Next **recommended continuation**:

- 1 Objects (creation, access, reference behavior)
- 2 Array methods (map , filter , reduce)
- 3 Prototype & Prototypal Inheritance (deep)

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