

TOPIC: Decision Making in JavaScript

(**if**, **else**, **else if**, **switch**, **ternary**)

NOTE 1: What “decision making” means internally

- Decision making controls **execution flow**
- JavaScript evaluates a condition
- Condition is **coerced to Boolean**
- Based on **true / false**, a code path is chosen

Internally:

- Expression → **Boolean(expression)**
- No comparison with **true** happens explicitly

CODE 1: Basic **if** statement

js

```
let age = 20;

if (age >= 18) {
  console.log("Adult");
}
```

NOTE 2: How **if** evaluates conditions

- Condition is **not required to be boolean**
- JavaScript applies **truthy / falsy rules**

CODE 2: Truthy / falsy in **if**

js

```
if (1) {
  console.log("runs");
}

if (0) {
  console.log("does not run");
}

if ("") {
  console.log("does not run");
}
```

```
if ("hello") {
  console.log("runs");
}
```

■ NOTE 3: if...else flow

- If condition is truthy → if block runs
- Otherwise → else block runs
- Exactly one block executes

■ CODE 3: if...else

js

```
let isLoggedIn = false;

if (isLoggedIn) {
  console.log("Welcome");
} else {
  console.log("Please log in");
}
```

■ NOTE 4: else if ladder

- Conditions evaluated **top to bottom**
- First matching condition executes
- Remaining conditions are skipped

■ CODE 4: else if chain

js

```
let score = 85;

if (score >= 90) {
  console.log("Grade A");
} else if (score >= 75) {
  console.log("Grade B");
} else if (score >= 50) {
  console.log("Grade C");
} else {
  console.log("Fail");
}
```

■ NOTE 5: Importance of order in else if

- Conditions must be ordered **carefully**
- First match wins, even if later conditions are “better”

CODE 5: Order bug example

```
js

let marks = 95;

if (marks >= 50) {
  console.log("Pass");
} else if (marks >= 90) {
  console.log("Excellent");
}
// "Pass" (logical bug)
```

NOTE 6: Nested `if` statements

- `if` inside another `if`
- Harder to read if overused
- Often refactored using logical operators or early returns

CODE 6: Nested `if`

```
js

let user = { loggedIn: true, isAdmin: false };

if (user.loggedIn) {
  if (user.isAdmin) {
    console.log("Admin panel");
  } else {
    console.log("User dashboard");
  }
}
```

NOTE 7: `switch` statement (decision by value)

- Used when comparing **same variable** against many values
- Uses **strict equality** (`=====`) **internally**
- Better readability than long `else if` chains

CODE 7: Basic `switch`

```
js
```

```
let day = 3;

switch (day) {
  case 1:
    console.log("Monday");
    break;
  case 2:
    console.log("Tuesday");
    break;
  case 3:
    console.log("Wednesday");
    break;
  default:
    console.log("Invalid day");
}
```

■ NOTE 8: Why `break` is required

- Without `break`, execution **falls through**
- This is by design (C-style behavior)

■ CODE 8: Fall-through behavior

js

```
let x = 1;

switch (x) {
  case 1:
    console.log("One");
  case 2:
    console.log("Two");
  default:
    console.log("Done");
}

// Output:
// One
// Two
// Done
```

■ NOTE 9: Intentional fall-through (advanced use)

- Sometimes used deliberately

- Must be documented clearly

CODE 9: Controlled fall-through

js

```
let role = "admin";

switch (role) {
  case "admin":
  case "manager":
    console.log("Access granted");
    break;
  default:
    console.log("Access denied");
}
```

NOTE 10: switch vs if...else

Aspect	if...else	switch
Condition	Any expression	Single value
Comparison	Boolean	====
Readability	Medium	High for enums
Flexibility	High	Limited

NOTE 11: Ternary operator (?:)

- Short form of if...else
- Expression-based (returns a value)
- Should be used for **simple decisions only**

CODE 10: Basic ternary

js

```
let age = 20;

let result = age >= 18 ? "Adult" : "Minor";
console.log(result);
```

NOTE 12: Nested ternary (readability warning)

- Technically valid

- Hard to read and debug
- Avoid in production code

CODE 11: Nested ternary

js

```
let marks = 80;

let grade =
  marks >= 90 ? "A" :
  marks >= 75 ? "B" :
  marks >= 50 ? "C" :
  "Fail";
```

NOTE 13: Decision making + logical operators

- Logical operators often replace nested `if`
- Improves readability and performance

CODE 12: Logical decision pattern

js

```
let user = { loggedIn: true, name: "Anoop" };

user.loggedIn && console.log("Welcome", user.name);
```

NOTE 14: Common interview traps

- `if (value)` uses coercion
- `switch` uses strict equality
- Missing `break` causes fall-through
- Ternary returns a value, `if` does not

FINAL MENTAL MODEL

- `if` → boolean coercion
- `else if` → first match wins
- `switch` → strict equality checks
- `break` controls flow
- Ternary → expression, not statement

STOP HERE

Next **recommended continuation:**

1 Nullish Coalescing (??) vs ||

2 Loops (for , while , for...of , for...in)

3 Functions (declaration, expression, execution context)

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