

JavaScript learning path

Perfect  we'll go **one primitive at a time in depth**.

Let's start with the **first primitive: Number** — the most commonly used, but also the most **misunderstood** in JavaScript.

◆ Primitive 1: Number

Definition

In JavaScript, all numbers (integers + floats) are represented using **IEEE-754 64-bit floating-point**.

That means `42`, `3.14`, `NaN`, `Infinity`, `-0` → **all are the same type: number**.

Internal Representation

A `number` is stored as **64 bits (8 bytes)**:

- **1 bit** → sign (+/-)
- **11 bits** → exponent
- **52 bits** → fraction (mantissa)

This gives:

- **53 bits of precision** for integers (~15–16 decimal digits).
 - Beyond $2^{53} - 1$ (`9007199254740991`), integers are unsafe (rounded).
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Special Values

- **NaN** → "Not-a-Number", but still `typeof NaN === "number"`.
- **Infinity / -Infinity** → division by zero, overflow.
- **-0** → special case; behaves like `0`, but detectable.

js

```
console.log(typeof NaN); // "number"
console.log(1 / 0);    // Infinity
console.log(1 / -0);   // -Infinity
```

Type Conversion to Number

- `Number("42") → 42`
- `Number("") → 0`
- `Number("foo") → NaN`
- `Number(true) → 1, Number(false) → 0`
- `Number(null) → 0`
- `Number(undefined) → NaN`

Pitfalls & Interview Traps

1. Floating precision

```
js

console.log(0.1 + 0.2); // 0.30000000000000004
console.log(0.1 + 0.2 === 0.3); // false
```

2. NaN weirdness

```
js

console.log(NaN === NaN); // false
console.log(Number.isNaN(NaN)); // true
```

3. -0 exists

```
js

console.log(0 === -0); // true
console.log(Object.is(0, -0)); // false
```

4. Max safe integer

```
js

console.log(Number.MAX_SAFE_INTEGER); // 9007199254740991
console.log(9999999999999999); // 10000000000000000 (rounded!)
```

Optimization Tips

- Prefer integers under $2^{53} - 1$ for exact math.
 - For financial apps, avoid floats — use libraries (Decimal.js, Big.js) or **BigInt**.
 - In hot loops, mixing types (`"5" + 1`) → causes de-optimizations.
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Mini-Exercises (try predicting)

1. js

```
console.log(0.1 + 0.2 == 0.3);
```

2. js

```
console.log(Math.sqrt(-1));
```

3. js

```
console.log(Number(null));
console.log(Number(undefined));
```

4. js

```
console.log(9999999999999999 === 10000000000000000);
```

👉 Do you want me to **solve these now step by step**, or first let you try predicting them yourself and then I'll reveal the answers?