

TOPIC: Objects in JavaScript

(Creation • Access • Reference Behavior • Internals • Interview Traps)

NOTE 1: What an object really is (internal view)

- An object is a **non-primitive reference type**
- Stored in **heap memory**
- Variables hold a **reference (address)** to the object
- Objects are **mutable**
- Objects are key-value collections

👉 Objects are the backbone of JS (arrays, functions, dates = objects)

NOTE 2: Object creation methods

JavaScript provides multiple ways to create objects:

1. Object literal `{}` (most common)
2. `new Object()`
3. Constructor functions
4. `Object.create()`
5. Classes (syntactic sugar)

CODE 1: Object literal (recommended)

js

```
const user = {
  name: "Anoop",
  age: 22,
  isAdmin: false
};
```

NOTE 3: Object literal internals

- Keys are stored as **strings (or symbols)**
- Values can be **any type**
- Order of keys is **mostly predictable** (but don't rely on it)

CODE 2: Key normalization

js

```
const obj = {
  1: "one",
```

```
true: "yes"  
};  
  
obj["1"]; // "one"  
obj[true]; // "yes"
```

■ NOTE 4: Accessing object properties

Two ways:

1. Dot notation
2. Bracket notation

■ CODE 3: Access methods

js

```
user.name; // dot  
user["age"]; // bracket
```

■ NOTE 5: When bracket notation is REQUIRED

- Dynamic keys
- Keys with spaces or special characters
- Numeric keys

■ CODE 4: Bracket-only cases

js

```
const obj = {  
  "full name": "Anoop Yadav"  
};  
  
obj["full name"]; // works  
// obj.full name ✗ syntax error  
  
let key = "age";  
user[key]; // dynamic access
```

■ NOTE 6: Adding, updating, deleting properties

Objects are mutable → properties can change anytime.

■ CODE 5: Mutation operations

js

```
user.city = "Delhi"; // add  
user.age = 23; // update  
delete user.isAdmin; // delete
```

■ NOTE 7: Object reference behavior (CRITICAL)

- Objects are assigned by **reference**
- Copying variable does NOT copy object
- Multiple variables can point to same object

■ CODE 6: Reference behavior

js

```
const a = { x: 10 };  
const b = a;  
  
b.x = 20;  
console.log(a.x); // 20
```

■ NOTE 8: Comparison of objects

- Objects are compared by **reference**
- Identical structure ≠ equal

■ CODE 7: Object comparison trap

js

```
{ } === {}; // false  
  
const o = {};  
const p = o;  
  
o === p; // true
```

■ NOTE 9: Shallow copy vs reference copy

- Reference copy → same object
- Shallow copy → new object, same nested references

■ CODE 8: Shallow copy examples

js

```
const obj1 = { a: 1, b: { c: 2 } };  
  
const obj2 = { ...obj1 }; // shallow copy
```

```
obj2.b.c = 99;
```

```
obj1.b.c; // 99 (shared nested reference)
```

■ NOTE 10: Deep copy concept

- Deep copy duplicates **all nested objects**
- JS has no built-in deep copy
- Common methods:
 - `structuredClone()`
 - `JSON.parse(JSON.stringify())` (limitations)

■ CODE 9: Deep copy (safe modern way)

js

```
const original = { a: 1, b: { c: 2 } };
const copy = structuredClone(original);

copy.b.c = 100;
original.b.c; // 2
```

■ NOTE 11: Object methods

- Functions stored as object properties
- `this` refers to **calling object**

■ CODE 10: Object method & `this`

js

```
const user = {
  name: "Anoop",
  greet() {
    console.log(this.name);
  }
};

user.greet(); // Anoop
```

■ NOTE 12: `this` trap inside objects

- Arrow functions do NOT have own `this`
- They inherit `this` from lexical scope

■ CODE 11: Arrow function trap

js

```
const obj = {
  name: "Anoop",
  greet: () => {
    console.log(this.name);
  }
};

obj.greet(); // undefined
```

■ NOTE 13: Checking property existence

Two ways:

1. `in` operator
2. `hasOwnProperty()`

■ CODE 12: Property existence

```
js

"name" in user;      // true
user.hasOwnProperty("age"); // true
```

■ NOTE 14: Iterating over objects

- `for...in` → keys
- `Object.keys()` → array of keys
- `Object.values()` → array of values
- `Object.entries()` → key-value pairs

■ CODE 13: Object iteration

```
js

for (let key in user) {
  console.log(key, user[key]);
}

Object.entries(user).forEach(([k, v]) => {
  console.log(k, v);
});
```

■ NOTE 15: Common interview traps

- Objects are passed by reference
- Shallow copy ≠ deep copy

- Arrow functions don't bind `this`
- Object comparison checks reference
- Deleting properties affects all references

FINAL MENTAL MODEL

- Objects live in heap
- Variables store references
- Mutations affect all references
- Methods depend on call-site `this`
- Copying objects requires care

STOP HERE

Next **recommended continuation**:

- 1 Prototype & Prototypal Inheritance (**VERY important**)
- 2 Array methods (`map`, `filter`, `reduce`)
- 3 Classes & OOP in JavaScript

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