

Great. We continue **step-by-step**, NotebookLM-ready, with **NOTES** and **CODE** strictly separated.

TOPIC: Comparison Operators (Deep Rules + Edge Cases)

NOTE 1: What comparison operators do

- Comparison operators compare **two values**
- Result is **always a boolean**
- Some comparisons trigger **type coercion**
- Others are **strict and safe**

CODE 1: Basic comparison operators

js

```
10 > 5;    // true
10 < 5;    // false
10 >= 10;   // true
10 <= 9;    // false
```

NOTE 2: Equality operators (two categories)

There are **two equality systems** in JavaScript:

1. **Loose equality** → `==`
2. **Strict equality** → `===`

They behave very differently internally.

CODE 2: Loose vs strict equality

js

```
5 == "5";   // true (type coercion)
5 === "5";  // false (no coercion)
```

NOTE 3: Loose equality (`==`) internal rules

- Converts operands to a **common type**
- Uses coercion rules
- Special-cases `null` and `undefined`
- Source of many bugs

CODE 3: `==` coercion examples (IMPORTANT)

js

```
0 == false;      // true
"" == false;     // true
```

```
"0" == false;      // true  
null == undefined; // true  
[] == false;       // true  
[] == "";          // true
```

■ NOTE 4: null and undefined special rule

- null and undefined are loosely equal only to each other
- They are NOT equal to any other value

■ CODE 4: null / undefined cases

js

```
null == undefined; // true  
null == 0;          // false  
undefined == 0;     // false
```

■ NOTE 5: Strict equality (===) rules

- No type conversion
- Compares type + value
- Predictable and safe
- Always preferred in production

■ CODE 5: Strict equality clarity

js

```
0 === false;      // false  
"" === false;     // false  
null === undefined; // false
```

■ NOTE 6: Object comparison behavior

- Objects are compared by reference
- Even identical objects are NOT equal

■ CODE 6: Object comparison

js

```
let a = {};  
let b = {};  
  
a == b; // false  
a === b; // false
```

NOTE 7: Same reference comparison

- If two variables point to the same object
- Comparison returns true

CODE 7: Same reference

js

```
let obj = {};  
let ref = obj;  
  
obj === ref; // true
```

NOTE 8: Relational operators (`<`, `>`) rules

- Operands are converted to **primitives**
- Then compared as:
 - Numbers OR
 - Strings (lexicographically)

CODE 8: Numeric comparison

js

```
"10" > 2; // true  
"5" < 10; // true
```

NOTE 9: String comparison (lexicographical)

- Compared **character by character**
- Based on Unicode values
- NOT numeric comparison

CODE 9: String comparison traps

js

```
"2" > "10"; // true  
"apple" > "app"; // true
```

NOTE 10: Mixed comparisons (string + number)

- Strings converted to numbers
- Then numeric comparison occurs

CODE 10: Mixed cases

js

```
"10" > 9; // true  
"abc" > 1; // false (NaN comparison)
```

■ NOTE 11: Comparisons with NaN

- `NaN` is **never equal to anything**
- Even itself

■ CODE 11: NaN behavior

js

```
NaN == NaN; // false  
NaN === NaN; // false  
NaN > 0; // false  
NaN < 0; // false
```

■ NOTE 12: How to correctly check NaN

■ CODE 12: NaN checks

js

```
isNaN("abc"); // true (coercion!)  
Number.isNaN("abc"); // false  
Number.isNaN(NaN); // true
```

■ NOTE 13: Comparison chaining DOES NOT work like math

JavaScript does NOT support mathematical chaining.

■ CODE 13: Chaining trap (INTERVIEW)

js

```
1 < 2 < 3; // true  
3 < 2 < 1; // true (WHY?)
```

Explanation:

- `1 < 2` → true
- `true < 3` → `1 < 3` → true

■ NOTE 14: Object.is() (advanced equality)

- Similar to `==`
- Handles edge cases differently

■ CODE 14: Object.is differences

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

NOTE 15: Best practices (professional)

- Always use `====`
- Never chain comparisons
- Be careful with string comparisons
- Avoid comparing objects directly
- Use `Object.is` for edge cases

FINAL MENTAL MODEL

- `==` → coercion (dangerous)
- `=====` → strict (safe)
- Objects compare by reference
- Strings compare lexicographically
- `NaN` is never equal
- `Object.is` handles edge cases

STOP HERE

Next recommended continuation:

- 1 Logical Operators (`&&`, `||`, `!`) + Short-Circuiting
- 2 Decision Making (`if` / `else` / `switch`)
- 3 Nullish Coalescing (`??`) vs `||`

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