

JavaScript (basics)

"The" language of the Web

Fulvio Corno

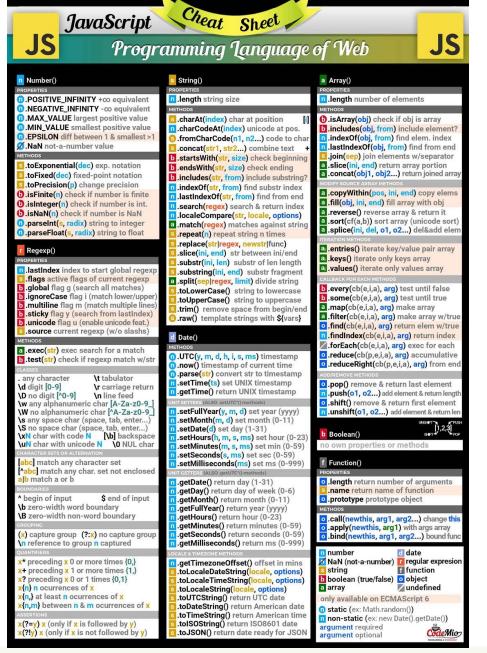
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Goal

- Learn JavaScript <u>as a language</u>
- Understand the specific semantics and programming patterns
 - We assume a programming knowledge in other languages
- Updated to ES6 (2015) language features
- Supported by server-side (Node.js) and client-side (browsers) run-time environments
 - More recent language additions also supported (through transpiling)

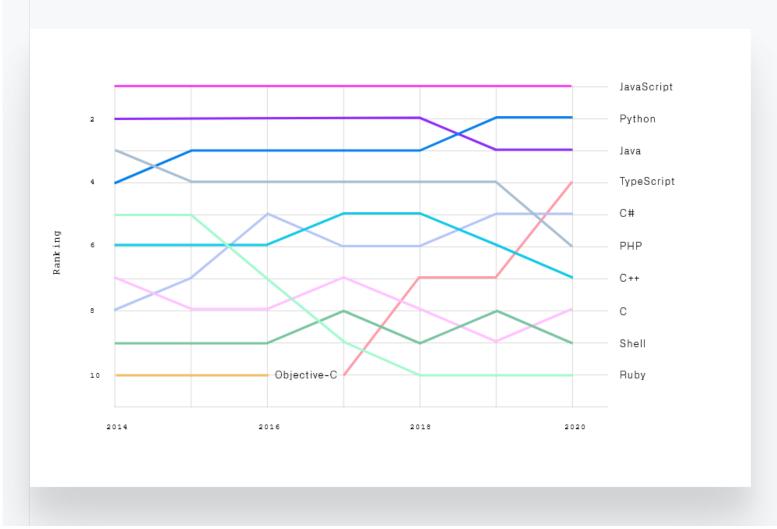
Outline

- What is JavaScript?
- History and versions
- Language structure
- Types, variables
- Expressions
- Control structures
- Arrays
- Strings

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WHAT IS JAVASCRIPT?

Top languages over the years



source: https://octoverse.github.com/#top-languages

JavaScript

- JavaScript (JS) is a programming language
- It is currently the only programming language that a browser can execute natively...
- ... and it also run on a computer, like other programming languages (thanks to Node.js)
- It has nothing to do with Java
 - named that way for marketing reasons, only
- The first version was written in 10 days (!)
 - several fundamental language decisions were made because of company politics and not technical reasons!

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HISTORY AND VERSIONS

JAVASCRIPT VERSIONS





Brendan Eich

- ▶ ECMAScript Standard Editions: https://www.ecma-international.org/ecma-262/
 - ES1 (June 1997) Object-based, Scripting, Relaxed syntax, Prototypes
 - ES2 (June 1998) Editorial changes for ISO 16262
 - ES3 (December 1999) Regexps, Try/Catch, Do-While, String methods
 - ES5 (December 2009) Strict mode, JSON, .bind, Object mts, Array mts
 - ES5.1 (June 2011) Editorial changes for ISO 16262:2011
- ES6 (June 2015) Classes, Modules, Arrow Fs, Generators, Const/Let,

Destructuring, Template Literals, Promise, Proxy, Symbol, Reflect

- **ES7 (June 2016)** Exponentiation operator (**) and Array Includes
- **ES8 (June 2017)** Async Fs, Shared Memory & Atomics

Also: ES2015

Also: ES2016

Also: ES2017

Main target

10

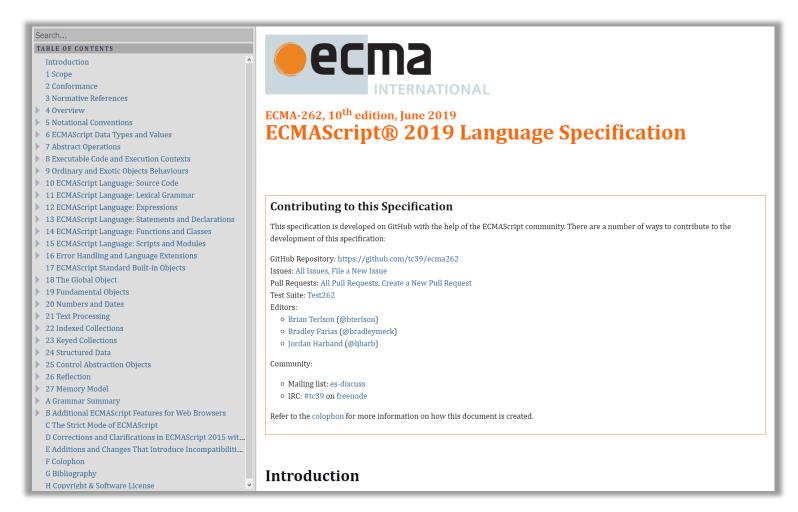
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ES9, ES10,

JavaScript versions

- ECMAScript (also called ES) is the official name of JavaScript (JS) standard
- ES6, ES2015, ES2016 etc. are implementations of the standard
- All browsers used to run ECMAScript 3
- ES5, and ES2015 (=ES6) were huge versions of JavaScript
- Then, yearly release cycles started
 - By the committee behind JS: TC39, backed by Mozilla, Google, Facebook, Apple,
 Microsoft, Intel, PayPal, SalesForce, etc.
- ES2015 (=ES6) is covered in this course

Official ECMA standard (formal and unreadable)



https://www.ecma-international.org/ecma-262/

JavaScript Engines

- V8 (Chrome V8) by Google
 - used in Chrome/Chromium, Node.js and Microsoft Edge
- SpiderMonkey by Mozilla Foundation
 - Used in Firefox/Gecko
- ChakraCore by Microsoft
 - it was used in Edge
- JavaScriptCore by Apple
 - used in Safari

Standard vs. Implementation (in browsers)

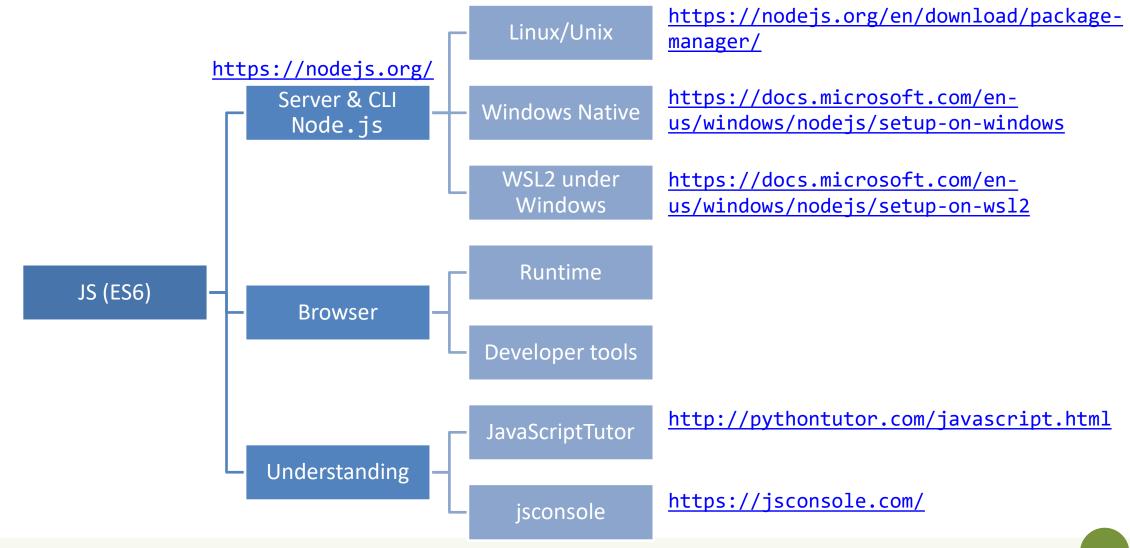
Browser compatibility

					Update compatibility data on GitHub								
	₽				0								
	© Chrome	• Edge	E Firefox	(1) Internet Explorer	O Opera	Safari	Android webview	© Chrome for Android	Eirefox for Android	Opera for Android	Safari on iOS	Samsung Internet	
FetchEvent 🚨	40	Yes	44 *	No	27	No	40	40	44	27	No	4.0	
FetchEvent() constructor	40	Yes	44 *	No	27	No	40	40	44	27	No	4.0	
client ▲ 🗣 🛦	42	?	44	No	27	No	42	44	No	?	No	4.0	
clientId 🚨	49	?	45 *	No	36	No	49	49	45	36	No	5.0	
isReload 🚨	45	17	44 *	No	32	No	45	45	44	32	No	5.0	
navigationPreload 🕹	59	?	?	No	46	No	59	59	?	43	No	7.0	
preloadResponse 🛚 🕹	59	18	?	No	46	No	59	59	?	43	No	7.0	
replacesClientId	No	18	65	No	No	No	No	No	65	No	No	No	
request 🚨	Yes	?	44	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	?	Yes	No	Yes	
respondWith 👃	42 *	?	59 *	No	29	No	42 *	42 *	?	29	No	4.0	L
resultingClientId	72	18	65	No	60	No	72	72	65	50	No	No	
targetClientId	?	?	?	No	?	No	?	?	?	?	No	?	
									V	Vhat are v	we missin	ıg?	
Full support			N N	lo suppor	t								
Compatibility unkno	Compatibility unknown Experimental. Expect behavior to change in the future.												
 Non-standard. Experimentation See implementation 		eprecate vebsites.	d. Not for	use in ne	w								

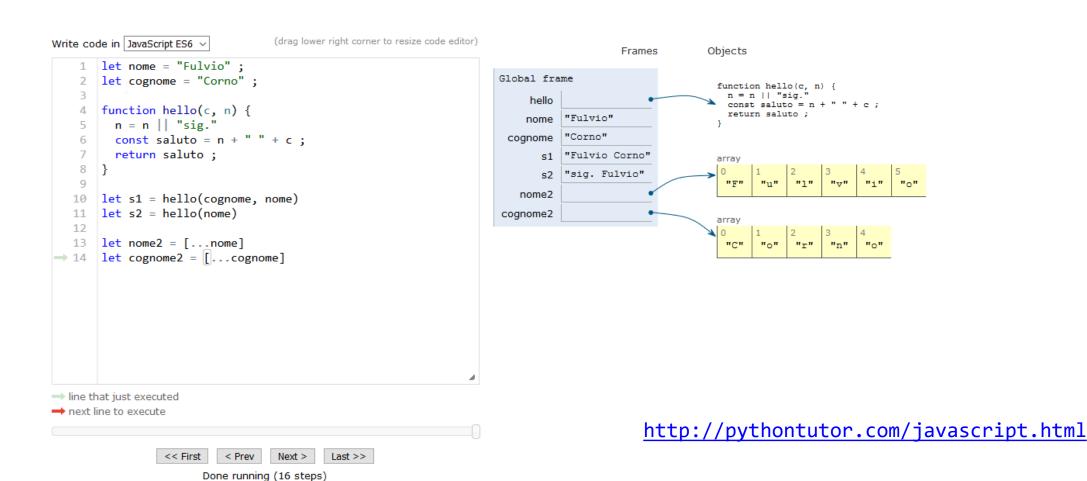
JS Compatibility

- JS is backwards-compatible
 - once something is accepted as valid JS, there will not be a future change to the language that causes that code to become invalid JS
 - TC39 members: "we don't break the web!"
- JS is not forwards-compatible
 - new additions to the language will not run in an older JS engine and may crash the program
- strict mode was introduced to disable very old (and dangerous) semantics
- Supporting multiple versions is achieved by:
 - Transpiling Babel (https://babeljs.io) converts from newer JS syntax to an equivalent older syntax
 - Polyfilling user- (or library-)defined functions and methods that "fill" the lack of a feature by implementing the newest available one

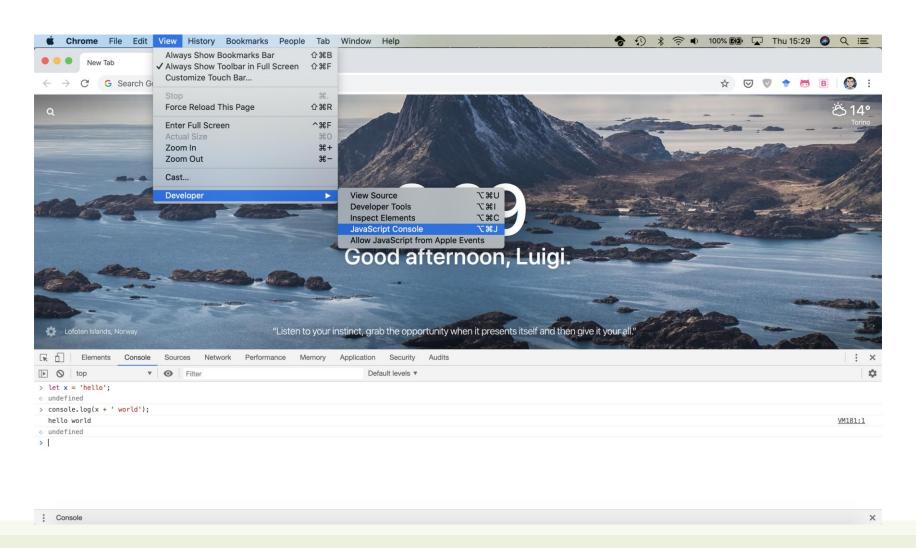
JS Execution Environments



JavaScriptTutor



Browser and JS console



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LANGUAGE STRUCTURE

Lexical structure

- One File = One JS program
 - Each file is loaded independently and
 - Different files/programs may communicate through global state
 - The "module" mechanism extends that (provides state sharing in a clean way)
- The file is entirely parsed, and then executed from top to bottom
- Relies on a standard library
 - and many additional APIs provided by the execution environment

Lexical structure

```
> let ööö = 'appalled'
> ööö
'appalled'
```

undefined

> console.log(x);

- JavaScript is written in Unicode (do not abuse), so it also supports non-latin characters for names and strings
 - even emoji
- Semicolons (;) are not mandatory (automatically inserted)
- Case sensitive
- Comments as in C (/*..*/ and //)
- Literals and identifiers (start with letter, \$, _)
- Some reserved words
- C-like syntax

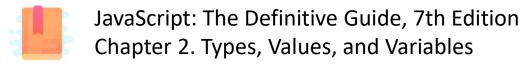
Semicolon (;)

- Argument of debate in the JS community
- JS inserts them as needed
 - When next line starts with code that breaks the current one
 - When the next line starts with }
 - When there is return, break, throw, continue on its own line
- Be careful that forgetting semicolon can lead to unexpected behavior
 - A newline does not automatically insert a semicolon: if the next line starts with (or [, it is interpreted as function call or array access
- We will loosely follow the Google style guide, so we will always insert semicolons after each statement
 - https://google.github.io/styleguide/jsguide.html

Strict Mode

```
// first line of file
"use strict";
// always!!
```

- Directive introduced in ES5: "use strict";
 - Compatible with older version (it is just a string)
- Code is executed in strict mode
 - This fixes some important language deficiencies and provides stronger error checking and security
 - Examples:
 - fixes mistakes that make it difficult for JavaScript engines to perform optimizations: strict mode code can sometimes be made to run faster than identical code that's not strict mode
 - eliminates some JavaScript silent errors by changing them to throw errors
 - functions invoked as functions and not as methods of an object have this undefined
 - cannot define 2 or more properties or function parameters with the same name
 - no octal literals (base 8, starting with 0)
 - ...



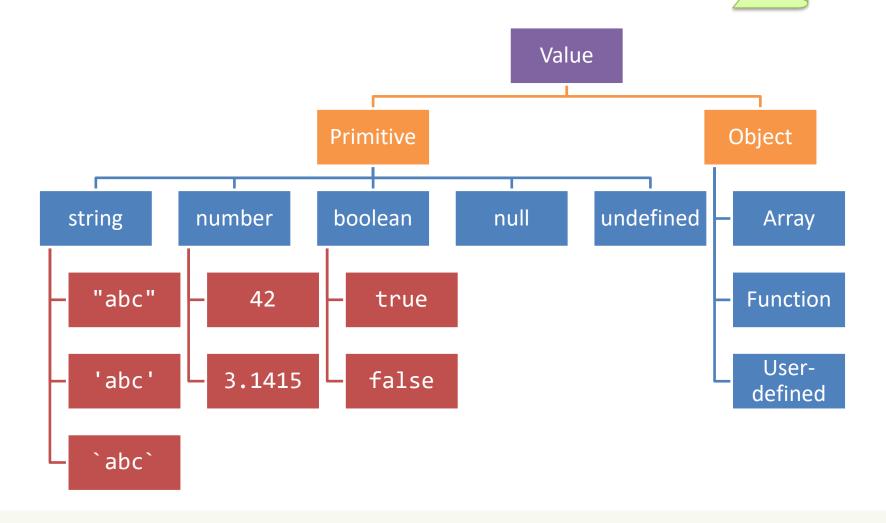
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TYPES AND VARIABLES

Values and Types

Values have types.

Variables don't.



Boolean, true-truthy, false-falsy, comparisons

- 'boolean' type with literal values: true, false
- When converting to boolean
 - The following values are 'falsy'
 0, -0, NaN, undefined, null, '' (empty string)
 - Every other value is 'truthy'
 - 3, 'false', [] (empty array), {} (empty object)
- Booleans and Comparisons

```
    a == b // convert types and compare results
    a === b // inhibit automatic type conversion and compare results
```

```
> Boolean(3)
true
> Boolean('')
false
> Boolean('')
true
```

Number

- No distinction between integers and reals
- Automatic conversions according to the operation

- There is also a distinct type "BigInt" (ES11, July 2020)
 - an arbitrary-precision integer, can represent 2⁵³ numbers
 - 123456789n
 - With suffix 'n'

Special values

- undefined: variable declared but not initialized
 - Detect with: typeof variable === 'undefined'
 - void x always returns undefined
- null: an empty value
- Null and Undefined are called nullish values

- NaN (Not a Number)
 - It is actually a number
 - Invalid output from arithmetic operation or parse operation

Variables

- Variables are *pure* references: they refer to a value
- > v = 7;
 7
 > v = 'hi';
 'hi'
- The same variable may refer to different values (even of different types) at different times

- Declaring a variable:
 - let
 - const
 - var

```
> let a = 5
> const b = 6
> var c = 7
> a = 8
8
> b = 9
Thrown:
TypeError: Assignment to constant variable.
> c = 10
10
```

Variable declarations

Declarator	Can reassign?	Can re-declare?	Scope	Hoisting *	Note
let	Yes	No	Enclosing block {}	No	Preferred
const	No §	No	Enclosing block {}	No	Preferred
var	Yes	Yes	Enclosing function, or global	Yes, to beginning of function or file	Legacy, beware its quirks, try not to use
None (implicit)	Yes	N/A	Global	Yes	Forbidden in strict mode

[§] Prevents reassignment (a=2), does <u>not</u> prevent changing the value of the referred object (a.b=2)

^{*} Hoisting = "lifting up" the definition of a variable (<u>not</u> the initialization!) to the top of the current scope (e.g., the file or the function)

Scope

```
"use strict";
let a = 1;
const b = 2;
let c = true;
let a = 5; // SyntaxError: Identifier 'a' has already been declared
```

Scope

Typically, you don't create a new scope in this way!

```
"use strict";
let a = 1;
const b = 2;
let c = true;

{ // creating a new scope...
   let a = 5;
   console.log(a);
}
```

Each { } is called a **block**. 'let' and 'const' variables are *block-scoped*.

They exist only in their defined and inner scopes.

Scope and Hoisting

```
"use strict";
let a = 1;
   console.log(a); // 1
   console.log(b); // ReferenceError: b is not defined
   console.log(c); // undefined
   if( x>1 ) {
      let b = a+1 ;
      var c = a*2;
   console.log(a); // 1
   console.log(b); // ReferenceError: b is not defined
   console.log(c); // 2
example(2);
```



JavaScript: The Definitive Guide, 7th Edition

Chapter 2. Types, Values, and Variables

Chapter 3. Expressions and Operators

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JavaScript Guide » Expressions and operators

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EXPRESSIONS

Operators

- Assignment operators
- Comparison operators
- Arithmetic operators
- Bitwise operators
- Logical operators
- String operators
- Conditional (ternary) operator
- Comma operator
- Unary operators
- Relational operators



Full reference and operator precedence:

https://developer.mozilla.org/en-

<u>US/docs/Web/JavaScript/Reference/Operators/Oper</u>

ator Precedence#Table

Assignment

```
    let variable = expression; // declaration with initialization
    variable = expression; // reassignment
```

Name	Shorthand operator	Meaning
Assignment	x = y	x = y
Addition assignment	x += y	x = x + y
Subtraction assignment	x -= y	x = x - y
Multiplication assignment	x *= y	x = x * y
Division assignment	x /= y	x = x / y
Remainder assignment	x %= y	x = x % y
Exponentiation assignment	x **= y	x = x ** y
Left shift assignment	x <<= y	x = x << y
Right shift assignment	x >>= y	$x = x \gg y$
Unsigned right shift assignment	x >>>= y	x = x >>> y
Bitwise AND assignment	x &= y	x = x & y
Bitwise XOR assignment	x ^= y	$x = x \wedge y$
Bitwise OR assignment	x = y	x = x y

Comparison operators

	Operator	Description	Examples returning true
	Equal (==)	Returns true if the operands are equal.	3 == var1 "3" == var1 3 == '3'
	Not equal (!=)	Returns true if the operands are not equal.	var1 != 4 var2 != "3"
\rightarrow	Strict equal (===)	Returns true if the operands are equal and of the same type. See also Object.is and sameness in JS.	3 === var1
	Strict not equal (!==)	Returns true if the operands are of the same type but not equal, or are of different type.	var1 !== "3" 3 !== '3'
	Greater than (>)	Returns true if the left operand is greater than the right operand.	var2 > var1 "12" > 2
	Greater than or equal (>=)	Returns true if the left operand is greater than or equal to the right operand.	<pre>var2 >= var1 var1 >= 3</pre>
	Less than (<)	Returns true if the left operand is less than the right operand.	var1 < var2 "2" < 12
	Less than or equal (<=)	Returns true if the left operand is less than or equal to the right operand.	<pre>var1 <= var2 var2 <= 5</pre>

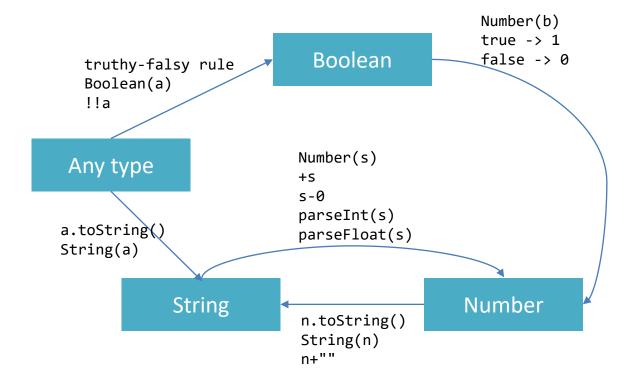
Comparing Objects

- Comparison between objects with == or ===
 compares the *references* to objects
 - True only if they are the same object
 - False if they are identical objects
- Comparison with <> <= >= first converts the object (into a Number, or more likely a String), and then compares the values
 - It works, but may be unpredictable, depending on the string format

```
> a={x:1}
{ x: 1 }
> b={x:1}
{ x: 1 }
> a===b
false
> a==b
false
```

Automatic Type Conversions

- JS tries to apply type conversions between primitive types, before applying operators
- Some language constructs may be used to "force" the desired conversions
- Using == applies conversions
- Using === prevents conversions



Logical operators

Operator	Usage	Description
Logical AND (&&)	expr1 && expr2	Returns expr1 if it can be converted to false; otherwise, returns expr2. Thus, when used with Boolean values, && returns true if both operands are true; otherwise, returns false.
Logical OR	expr1 expr2	Returns expr1 if it can be converted to true; otherwise, returns expr2. Thus, when used with Boolean values, returns true if either operand is true; if both are false, returns false.
Logical NOT	!expr	Returns false if its single operand that can be converted to true; otherwise, returns true.

Common operators

Logical AND (&&) Addition (+) Logical OR (||) Decrement (--) Or string Useful idiom: Logical NOT (!) Division (/) concatenation a||b Exponentiation (**) if a then a else b Nullish coalescing (a, with default b) Increment (++) operator (??) Multiplication (*) Conditional operator (c? Remainder (%) t : f) Subtraction (-) typeof Unary negation (-) Unary plus (+)

Mathematical functions (Math global object)

- Constants: Math.E, Math.LN10, Math.LN2, Math.LOG10E, Math.LOG2E, Math.PI, Math.SQRT1_2, Math.SQRT2
- Functions: Math.abs(), Math.acos(), Math.acosh(),
 Math.asin(), Math.asinh(), Math.atan(), Math.atan2(),
 Math.atanh(), Math.cbrt(), Math.ceil(), Math.clz32(),
 Math.cos(), Math.cosh(), Math.exp(), Math.expm1(),
 Math.floor(), Math.fround(), Math.hypot(), Math.imul(),
 Math.log(), Math.log10(), Math.log1p(), Math.log2(),
 Math.max(), Math.min(), Math.pow(), Math.random(),
 Math.round(), Math.sign(), Math.sin(), Math.sinh(),
 Math.sqrt(), Math.tan(), Math.tanh(), Math.trunc()



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Chapter 4. Statements

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JavaScript Guide » Control Flow and Error Handling

JavaScript Guide » Loops and Iteration

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CONTROL STRUCTURES

Conditional statements

May also be a string

```
if (condition) {
  statement_1;
                          if truthy (beware!)
 else {
  statement 2;
if (condition_1) {
  statement 1;
 else if (condition_2) {
  statement 2;
 else if (condition_n) {
 statement n;
 else {
  statement_last;
```

```
switch (expression) {
  case label 1:
    statements 1
    [break;]
  case label 2:
    statements 2
    [break;]
  default:
    statements def
    [break;]
```

Loop statements

```
for ([initialExpression]; [condition]; [incrementExpression]) {
   statement;
}

Usually declares loop
   variable
```

```
do {
   statement;
} while (condition);

while (condition) {
   statement;
}
```

May use break; or continue;

Special 'for' statements

```
for (variable in object) {
  statement;
}
```

- Iterates the variable over all the enumerable properties of an object
- <u>Do not use</u> to traverse an array (use numerical indexes, or for-of)

```
for( let a in {x: 0, y:3}) {
    console.log(a);
}

x
y
```

```
for (variable of iterable) {
   statement;
}
```

- Iterates the variable over all values of an *iterable object* (including Array, Map, Set, string, arguments ...)
- Returns the *values*, not the keys

```
for( let a of [4,7]) {
    console.log(a);
}

4
7
```

```
for( let a of "hi" ) {
    console.log(a);
}

h
i
```

Other iteration methods

 Functional programming (strongly supported by JS) allows other methods to iterate over a collection (or any iterable object)

```
- a.forEach()
- a.map()
```

They will be analyzed later

Exception handling

```
throw object ;
try {
  statements;
  catch(e) {
                                                                        EvalError
  statements;
                                                                        RangeError
                                     Exception object
                                                                        ReferenceError
                                                                        SyntaxError
try {
                                                                        TypeError
  statements
                                                                        URIError
  catch(e) {
                                                                        DOMException
  statements;
                                                                            Contain fields: name,
  finally {
                                                                            message
  statements;
                                   Executed in any case, at
                                   the end of try and catch
                                   blocks
```



JavaScript: The Definitive Guide, 7th Edition Chapter 6. Arrays

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JavaScript Guide » Indexed Collections

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ARRAYS

Arrays

- Rich of functionalities
- Elements do not need to be of the same type
- Simplest syntax: []
- Property .length
- Distinguish between methods that:
 - Modify the array (in-place)
 - Return a **new** array

Creating an array

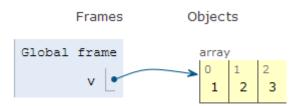
```
let v = [] ;
```

Elements are indexed at positions 0...length-1

Do not access elements outside range

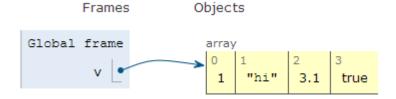
```
let v = [1, 2, 3];
```

```
let v = Array.of(1, 2, 3);
```



```
let v = [1, "hi", 3.1, true];
```

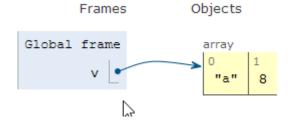
```
let v = Array.of(1, "hi",
3.1, true);
```



Adding elements

.lenght adjusts
automatically

```
let v = [];
v[0] = "a";
v[1] = 8;
v.length // 2
```

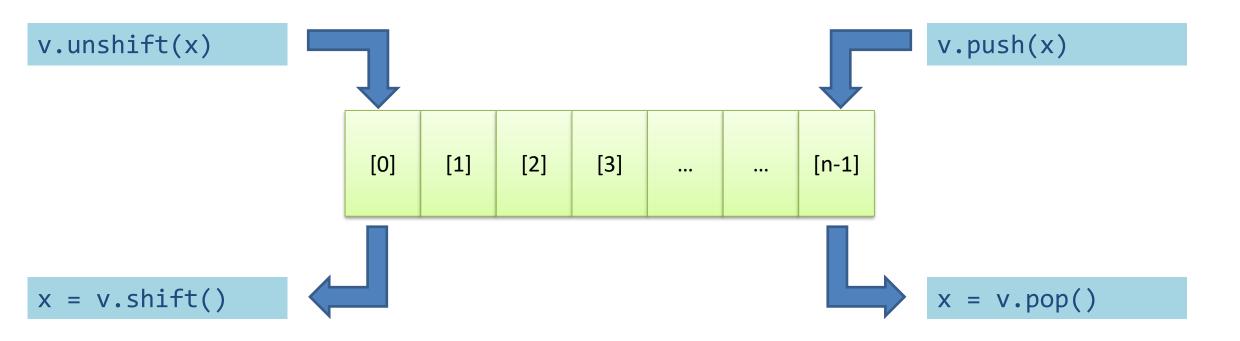


```
let v = [];
v.push("a");
v.push(8);
v.length // 2
```

.push() adds at the
end of the array

.unshift() adds at
the beginning of the
array

Adding and Removing from arrays (in-place)



Copying arrays

```
let v = [];
v[0] = "a";
v[1] = 8;

let alias = v;
alias[1] = 5;
```

```
> console.log(v);
[ 'a', 5 ]
undefined
> console.log(alias);
[ 'a', 5 ]
undefined
```

Copying arrays

```
let v = [];
v[0] = "a";
v[1] = 8;

let alias = v;
let copy = Array.from(v);
```

Global frame

v

alias

copy

array

0

"a"

8

Array.from creates a shallow copy

Creates an array from any iterable object

Iterating over Arrays

Preferred

- Iterators: for ... of, for (..;..;..)
- Iterators: forEach(f)
 - f is a function that processes the element
- Iterators: every(f), some(f)
 - f is a function that returns true or false
- Iterators that return a new array: map(f), filter(f)
 - − f works on the element of the array passed as parameter
- Reduce: exec a callback function on all items to progressively compute a result

Main array methods

- .concat()
 - joins two or more arrays and returns a **new** array.
- .join(delimiter = ',')
 - joins all elements of an array into a (new) string.
- .slice(start_index, upto_index)
 - extracts a section of an array and returns a new array.
- .splice(index, count_to_remove, addElement1, addElement2, ...)
 - removes elements from an array and (optionally) replaces them, in place

- .reverse()
 - transposes the elements of an array, in place
- .sort()
 - sorts the elements of an array in place
- .indexOf(searchElement[, fromIndex])
 - searches the array for searchElement and returns the index of the first match
- .lastIndexOf(searchElement[, fromIndex])
 - like indexOf, but starts at the end
- .includes(valueToFind[, fromIndex])
 - search for a certain value among its entries, returning true or false

Destructuring assignment

 Value of the right-hand side of equal signal are extracted and stored in the variables on the left

```
let [x,y] = [1,2];
[x,y] = [y,x]; // swap

var foo = ['one', 'two', 'three'];
var [one, two, three] = foo;
```

Useful especially with passing and returning values from functions

```
let [x,y] = toCartesian(r,theta);
```

Spread operator (3 dots: . . .)

 Expands an interable object in its parts, when the syntax requires a comma-separated list of elements

```
let [x, ...y] = [1,2,3,4]; // we obtain y == [2,3,4]

const parts = ['shoulders', 'knees'];

const lyrics = ['head', ...parts, 'and', 'toes']; // ["head", "shoulders",
    "knees", "and", "toes"]
```

Works on the left- and right-hand side of the assignment

Curiosity

- Copy by value:
 - const b = Array.from(a)
- Can be emulated by
 - const b = Array.of(...a)
 - const b = [...a]

Frequent idiom



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JavaScript Guide » Text Formatting

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STRINGS

Strings in JS

- A string is an immutable ordered sequence of Unicode characters
- The length of a string is the number of characters it contains (not bytes)
- JavaScript's strings use zero-based indexing
 - The empty string is the string of length 0
- JavaScript does not have a special type that represents a single character (use length-1 strings).
- String literals may be defined with 'abc' or "abc"
 - Note: when dealing with JSON parsing, only " " can be correctly parsed

String operations

- All operations always return new strings
 - Consequence of immutability
- **s**[3]: indexing
- s1 + s2: concatenation
- s.length: number of characters
 - Note: .length , not .length()

String methods

Method	Description
<pre>charAt, charCodeAt, codePointAt</pre>	Return the character or character code at the specified position in string.
<pre>indexOf, lastIndexOf</pre>	Return the position of specified substring in the string or last position of specified substring, respectively.
startsWith, endsWith, includes	Returns whether or not the string starts, ends or contains a specified string.
concat	Combines the text of two strings and returns a new string.
<pre>fromCharCode, fromCodePoint</pre>	Constructs a string from the specified sequence of Unicode values. This is a method of the String class, not a String instance.
split	Splits a String object into an array of strings by separating the string into substrings.
slice	Extracts a section of a string and returns a new string.
substring, substr	Return the specified subset of the string, either by specifying the start and end indexes or the start index and a length.
<pre>match, matchAll, replace, search</pre>	Work with regular expressions.
toLowerCase, toUpperCase	Return the string in all lowercase or all uppercase, respectively.
normalize	Returns the Unicode Normalization Form of the calling string value.
repeat	Returns a string consisting of the elements of the object repeated the given times.
trim	Trims whitespace from the beginning and end of the string.

Template literals

- Strings included in `backticks` can embed expressions delimited by \${}
- The value of the expression is interpolated into the string

```
let name = "Bill";
let greeting = `Hello ${ name }.`;
// greeting == "Hello Bill."
```

- Very useful and quick for string formatting
- Template literals may also span multiple lines



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