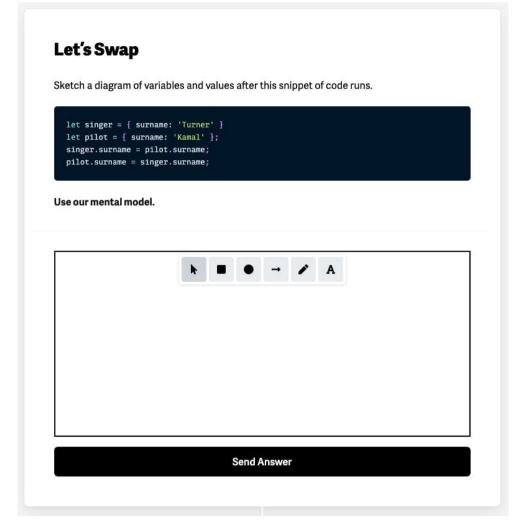# Upgrade your JavaScript mental models

Mental models are important. They can be the difference of understanding what your code does and simply guessing at what the outcome might be.

Here's some code from an exercise in the Properties episode of Just JavaScript:

```
let singer = { surname: 'Turner' }
let pilot = { surname: 'Kamal' };
singer.surname = pilot.surname;
pilot.surname = singer.surname;
```

You can probably guess the resulting values, but that's not what the exercise is asking you for. The exercise is asking you to create a diagram of what the code is doing (which is like many of the exercises in Just JavaScript)

The mental model you'll build in Just JavaScript requires you to slow down and consider what is happening when you type some code and run it. Practicing diagramming small examples like this will give you the confidence to sketch larger, complex, more algorithmic challenges.

The goal isn't to always draw what a program does, or even try to imagine it. Many people, myself included, don't even have a working visual imagination.

The goal is to help you gain the correct intuition for tracking the state of a program over time. When you have this intuition the sketches aren't required. It's your second nature.

These relatively simple sketches are a shortcut.

The goal is to make the mental model of each concept "feel" natural.

Just JavaScript is 10 episodes, each filled with this type of exercise to help you reframe how you think about JavaScript. They will equip you with the mental models you need to tackle challenging problems in your everyday code.

I'm looking forward to seeing your diagrams!

Click here to level up your mental models with Just JavaScript for 40% off.

This is a special release price that ends at the stroke of midnight (Pacific) August 1st, 2021.

Dan

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