

# The Full React Guide

- Why Learn React:
  - Small learning curve, so you can get productive quick! Builds off Javascript and JSX.
  - Community: Easy to get answers when you get stuck! Also, many things already developed so you don't have to develop core aspects.
  - The library itself: Component based architecture makes large apps easier to develop. Components are little pieces that make up the whole app. They reusable and easy to build and debug!
- Setting up your system for React:
  - Install Visual Studio Code.
  - Install node.js and yarn.
    - In your terminal: `npm install -g yarn`
    - Restart system
- Your First React App:
  - **Indecision App:** An app that you add a list of things to do, and the app picks which one you should do for you.
    - **Key Learning Points:**
      - **JSX:** JavaScript XML. Templating language used to build out the user interface for components. JavaScript syntax extension, provided to us by React. Great way to define and inject data into templates.
      - **Babel:** Your browser does not know what to do with JSX. It only works with JavaScript. Babel compiles down our JSX to JavaScript so we can view our site. It alone does nothing, we must add presets (group of plugins) for Babel to work. We need to include the React and env preset. React preset allows us to use JSX inside our code. Env allows us to use es6 and es7 features, like const, arrow functions, and rest and spread operators. Install:
        - 1. `npm install -g babel-cli@6.24.1` (gives us command line interface to use babel but does not give us the needed presets)
        - 2. `yarn init` (generates a file named package.json -> outlines all of the dependencies needed for our project to run. This allows us to quickly install all dependencies using something like npm install at any time)
        - 3. `yarn add babel-preset-react@6.24.1 babel-preset-env@1.5.2` (for presets – you will notice a new folder called node\_modules, this holds the sub-dependencies for our presets. You will also see a yarn.lock file -> autogenerated file, lists all dependencies in node\_modules, and lists where it got these dependencies)
    - `babel src/app.js --out-file=public/scripts/app.js --presets=env,react --watch` (sets what file to JSX file should be autogenerated by babel. First dir is our in file,

second dir is our generated outfile. --watch can be added on to keep this running in the background so any changes to the in file are automatically converted for you)

- **Live-server:** Bare bones no configuration web server. Allows us to serve up our public folder, and allows us to live refresh.
  - Install (while in project dir): `npm install -g live-server`
  - Run: `live-server public`
- File Structure:
  - App.js in the **source** folder contains all the JSX we write.
  - App.js in the **scripts** folder will be autogenerated JavaScript derived from our JSX through babel transformations.
- JSX Syntax:
  - All **adjacent tags** must be wrapped in a tag.

```
Ex: var templateTwo = (  
  
  <div>  
    <h1> Sanjeev Sharma </h1>  
    <p> Age: 25 </p>  
    <p> Location: NYC </p>  
  </div>  
);
```

- **JSX Expressions:** We want our websites to be dynamic and not static. Using Expressions allows us to pull data as variables. This can be useful for population multiple names from databases etc...

```
- var userName = 'Sanjeev Sharma';  
- var userAge = 25;  
- var userLocation = 'NYC';  
-  
- var templateTwo = (  
-   <div>  
-     <h1>{userName.toUpperCase() + '!'}</h1>  
-     <p>Age: {userAge}</p>  
-     <p>Location: {userLocation}</p>  
-   </div>  
- );
```

- Notice the use of concatenation and string methods that this allows us as well.
- **Objects:** All this user data can be defined as an object:

```
- var user = {  
-   name: 'Sanjeev Sharma',  
-   age: '25',  
-   location: 'NYC',  
- };  
- var templateTwo = (  
-   <div>
```

```
- <div>
-   <h1>{user.name.toUpperCase() + '!'}</h1>
-   <p>Age: {user.age}</p>
-   <p>Location: {user.location}</p>
- </div>
- );
```

- **Conditional Rendering in JSX:** What if something we want to render is not populated yet? For this we can use conditional statements. Issue with conditional statements is that they cannot exist where JavaScript expressions are. Instead you must make a function, and call that function with the variable as a parameter (highlighted in red):

```
- function getLocation(location){
-   if (location) { // if location does exist
-       return location;
-   }
-   else{
-       return 'Unknown';
-   }
- }
- var templateTwo = (
-   <div>
-     <h1>{user.userName}</h1>
-     <p>Age: {user.userAge}</p>
-     <p>Location: {getLocation(user.userLocation)}</p>
-   </div>
- );
```

- Or if you want nothing to display at all in the case the variable had not populated:

```
- function getLocation(location){
-   if (location) { // if location does exist
-       return <p>Location: {location} </p>;
-   }
- }
- var templateTwo = (
-   <div>
-     <h1>{user.userName}</h1>
-     <p>Age: {user.userAge}</p>
-     {getLocation(user.userLocation)}
-   </div>
- );
```

- We put the paragraph tag in the function and simply call the function in curly braces in the div. Notice the lack of else statement means that if one of our variables shows up as undefined, nothing will show on our app for that variable.

- **Ternary Operator:** More concise than creating a function. No need to break out to separate function, you can do this inline. This is because it is an expression and not a statement. Good for if you want to do 1 of 2 things.

```
- var templateTwo = (
-   <div>
-       <h1>{user.userName ? user.userName : 'Anonymous'}</h1>
-       <p>Age: {user.userAge}</p>
-       {getLocation(user.userLocation)}
-   </div>
- );
```

- User.userName ? user.userName -> if username exists, return username: 'Anonymous'; -> else return static Anonymous
- **Logical Operators:** Undefined Booleans are ignored by JSX, which can be very useful. For example, if we only want to display the age of users who are 18 or older we can use the **and** operator:

```
- var templateTwo = (
-   <div>
-       <h1>{user.userName ? user.userName : 'Anonymous'}</h1>
-       {user.userAge >= 18 && <p>Age: {user.userAge}</p>}
-       {getLocation(user.userLocation)}
-   </div>
- );
```

- if the first part of the and statement is true, the second part is returned and shown. If it is false, false is returned, and as we learned, undefined Booleans are ignored so nothing will show. This is exactly what we want! It is good for if you want to do 1 thing or nothing at all.
- You can also check if age exists by nesting an and statement to check for it:

```
- {(user.userAge && user.userAge >= 18) && <p>Age: {user.userAge}</p>}
```

- ES6:

- **let, const**

- **let:** Issue with using var is that it is redefinable with no errors. There is no useful case for this and can cause problems. let on the other hand is not redefinable and throws an error in your terminal. You can always reassign let variables, but it is not redefinable.
- **const:** like let, this is not redefinable. But since this is a constant variable, it is also not reassign able.
- **Scoping:** var, let, const are all function scoped. let and const are also block scoped. This means that these variables are not only unique to their functions and cannot be accessed from outside the function, they also cannot be accessed outside of their block. Block scoping means if you define a variable in something like a for loop or if statement, these variables are unique to these blocks and cannot be accessed from outside of this scope.

- **Arrow Functions:** A brand new syntax for creating functions offered through es6.

```
- const squareArrow = (x) => {  
-   return x*x;  
- };  
- console.log(squareArrow(10));
```

- Notice that the function name is now anonymous, so you cannot define a function by name and you must use a variable.
- *Expression Syntax:* allows us to be more concise with our functions by not having a function body. Expression syntax functions do not have a return, instead the single expression is implicitly returned. Good for functions that return a single expression:

```
- const squareArrowExp = (x) => x * x;  
- console.log(squareArrowExp(11));
```

- You cannot use **arguments** with arrow functions:

```
- const addArrow = (a, b) => {  
-   console.log(arguments);  
-   return a + b;  
- };
```

- This does not work as arguments are no longer bounded using arrow functions. Use ES5 functions if you must access arguments.
- **this** is only works for functions that are object properties in ES5, and not for random anonymous functions:

```
- const user = { //ES5  
-   name: 'Sanjeev',  
-   cities: ['NYC', 'Queens', 'Miami'],  
-   printPlaceLived: function(){ // since this function is added to the  
-       object property, the this is bound to that object  
-       console.log(this.name);  
-       console.log(this.cities);  
-  
-       this.cities.forEach(function (city) {  
-           console.log(this.name + ' has lived n' + city); // does not  
-           work since this anonymous function is not bound to the object  
-       });  
-   }  
- };  
-
```

- On the other hand, arrow functions inherit parents this. They use the this value of the context they were created in:

```
- const user1 = {  
-   name1: "Sanjeev1",  
-   cities1: ['NYC', 'Queens', 'Miami'],  
-   printPlaceLived(){ // ES6 syntax for defining a method function
```

```
-     this.cities1.forEach((city) => {
-         console.log(this.name1 + 'has lived in ' + city); // ES6 works
-         // since arrow functions inherit the this of the context they are created
-     });
- }
- };
```

- **Map:** allows you to transform each item in an array and returns it in a new array.

```
- const user2 = { //using map
-     name2: 'Sanjeev2',
-     cities2: ['NYC', 'Queens', 'Miami'],
-     printPlaceLived(){
-         return this.cities2.map((city)=> this.name2 + ' has lived in ' +
- city); //map allow you to transform each item in the arry and get a new
-         // array back
-     }
- };
```

- JSX Attributes: While most html attributes carry over to JSX, there are some key differences in attributes:

- class attribute is used to add identifiers to elements. These identifiers can be shared across multiple elements. This is good for styling using something like bootstrap. Class is now reserved for class declaration in JSX, so instead we use className:

```
- let count = 0;
- const templateTwo = (
-     <div>
-         <h1> Count: {count} </h1>
-         <button id ="my-id" className="button"> +1 </button>
-     </div>
- );
```

- Some of the HTML attributes that do carry over are now camel cased instead of being all lower case. You can use <https://reactjs.org/docs/dom-elements.html> for reference.

- Events: You want to be able to program dynamic changes to data from user. This can be done through events. To set up events, you can create functions:

```
- let count1 = 10;
- let initial = count1;
- const minus = () => console.log('minus');
- const reset = () => console.log('reset');
- const templateThree = (
-     <div>
-         <h1> Count: {count1} </h1>
-         <button onClick= {add1} className="button"> +1 </button>
-         <button onClick = {minus} className="button"> -1 </button>
-         <button onClick = {reset} className="button"> reset </button>
-     </div>
- );
```

```
-   </div>
- );
```

- **button onClick:** you can either call a function onClick or you can even inline some function. It is always better to pull out functions though if you will be needing the function in multiple places in code.
- Manual Data Binding: In the last snippets of code we do not re-render our count, but instead console.log what we are doing. JSX does not have built in data binding. This is because templateThree runs before anything is rendered to the screen. This is because nothing renders until ReactDOM.render is called, meaning that whatever are the initial values we declare will be rendered on screen. We can fix this by wrapping templateThree + ReactDOM.render inside a render function and calling this function wherever we need to initially render and where we need it to re-render: (This is called real time manual data binding)

```
-   const reset = () => {
-       count1 = initial;
-       renderCounterApp(); // re-render when function is called
-   };
-
-   const renderCounterApp = () =>{
-       const templateThree = (
-           <div>
-               <h1> Count: {count1} </h1>
-               <button onClick= {add2} className="button"> +1 </button>
-               <button onClick = {minus} className="button"> -1 </button>
-               <button onClick = {reset} className="button"> reset </button>
-           </div>
-       );
-       ReactDOM.render(templateThree, appRoot);
-   };
-   const appRoot = document.getElementById('app');
-   renderCounterApp(); // initial call to render
```

- This may look horribly inefficient as it looks like our web app is re-rendering the whole templateThree just to change a small element of it, React runs a virtual DOM algorithm that takes this and re-renders only the minimal things that are needed.

- Forms and Inputs: How do we handle forms and user input on those forms? We set up a form tag and a input tag:

```
-   <form onSubmit={onFormSubmit}> { /* reference the function, do
-       not call it.*/ }
-       <input type="text" name="option"/>
-       <button> Add options </button>
-   </form>
```

- We use form's onSubmit when working with forms, not the submission buttons onClick. We want to watch for the whole form to submit.
- Now we set up the custom event onSubmit handler:

```

-  const onFormSubmit = (e) => { // e = event object: contains various
    information about the event object
-    e.preventDefault(); // stops full page refresh
-
-    const option = e.target.elements.option.value; // grab user submitted
    option from form
-    if(option){ // check if option is populated
-        app.options.push(option); // push to options vector
-        e.target.elements.option.value = ''; // empty form text field
-        renderApp(); // re-render app
-    }
- };

```

- Read comments for details on what is happening here. The last call to `renderApp()` is to re-render our app. Look at Manual Data binding to refresh on this if you must.