

Logical Operators

Introduction to Logical Operators in JavaScript

Let's now return to our code and learn how logical operators work in JavaScript. We will use the Boolean variables from the last lecture, specifically the ones about having a driver's license and having good vision.

Defining Boolean Variables

We will create a variable for each condition. The first one will be **hasDriversLicense**, and let's start by setting it to **true**. Remember, this corresponds to variable A from the last lecture. Then, let's create **hasGoodVision** and also initialize it with **true**. These two variables, A and B, were used as examples previously, so it's a good idea to use them here as well.

Using the AND Operator

Let's log to the console the result of using the AND operator on these two variables. The AND operator in JavaScript is represented by **&&**. It combines two logical values. For example:

hasDriversLicense && hasGoodVision

Since both variables are **true**, the result should be **true**. Let's verify this.

javascript Code Sample

```
console.log(hasDriversLicense && hasGoodVision);
```

Changing One Variable to False

Now, let's change one of the variables to **false**. Remember, the result of **true && false** will be **false** because it is enough for one variable to be false for the entire AND operation to be false. Let's confirm this.

javascript Code Sample

```
hasGoodVision = false;  
console.log(hasDriversLicense && hasGoodVision);
```

Using the OR Operator

Next, let's see how the OR operator works. We will use the OR operator, represented by **||**, instead of AND. For example:

hasDriversLicense || hasGoodVision

What do you think the result will be? Since one of the variables is **true**, the result should be **true**. Let's check.

javascript Code Sample

```
console.log(hasDriversLicense || hasGoodVision);
```

Using the NOT Operator

Finally, we can use the NOT operator to invert a Boolean value. The NOT operator in JavaScript is the exclamation mark **!**. For example:

!hasDriversLicense

This will change **true** to **false** and vice versa.

javascript Code Sample

```
console.log(!hasDriversLicense);
```

Decision Making with Boolean Variables

Now that we understand how logical operators work, let's use these variables to make a decision. Suppose we want to determine whether Sarah should drive or not. We will create a new Boolean variable **shouldDrive** based on the conditions that Sarah has a driver's license and good vision.

javascript Code Sample

```
let shouldDrive = hasDriversLicense && hasGoodVision;
```

javascript Code Sample

```
if (shouldDrive) {  
    console.log('Sarah is able to drive');  
} else {  
    console.log('Someone else should drive');  
}
```

Explanation

If **shouldDrive** is **true**, the console will log "Sarah is able to drive". Otherwise, it will log "Someone else should drive". This condition checks that both **hasDriversLicense** and **hasGoodVision** are true for Sarah to drive.

Testing Different Conditions

If **hasGoodVision** is **false**, the condition fails, and the else block executes. If both variables are **true**, Sarah is able to drive.

javascript Code Sample

```
hasGoodVision = true;  
  
shouldDrive = hasDriversLicense && hasGoodVision;  
  
if (shouldDrive) {  
    console.log('Sarah is able to drive');  
} else {  
    console.log('Someone else should drive');  
}
```

Adding a Third Variable: isTired

Let's add another Boolean variable **isTired** and set it to **true**. This will be variable C. We can use more than two variables with logical operators by chaining them together. For example:

hasDriversLicense && hasGoodVision && !isTired

This means Sarah should drive only if she has a driver's license, has good vision, and is not tired.

javascript Code Sample

```
let isTired = true;

shouldDrive = hasDriversLicense && hasGoodVision && !isTired;
```

javascript Code Sample

```
if (shouldDrive) {
  console.log('Sarah is able to drive');
} else {
  console.log('Someone else should drive');
}
```

Explanation

Since **isTired** is **true**, the expression **!isTired** evaluates to **false**. Therefore, the entire condition is false, and the else block executes, indicating someone else should drive. To fix this, set **isTired** to **false**.

javascript Code Sample

```
isTired = false;

shouldDrive = hasDriversLicense && hasGoodVision && !isTired;
```

```
if (shouldDrive) {
  console.log('Sarah is able to drive');
} else {
  console.log('Someone else should drive');
}
```

Summary

With these three Boolean operators—AND (**&&**), OR (**||**), and NOT (**!**)—we can model complex decision-making scenarios. Although it may seem confusing at first, practicing these concepts will help you understand how to use logical operators effectively in programming.

Practice Challenge

To reinforce your understanding, try applying these logical operators in your own coding exercises. Experiment with different Boolean variables and conditions to see how the operators affect the outcomes.

Key Takeaways

- Logical operators in JavaScript include AND (**&&**), OR (**||**), and NOT (**!**).
- The AND operator returns true only if both operands are true.
- The OR operator returns true if at least one operand is true.
- The NOT operator inverts the Boolean value of its operand.

- Boolean variables can be combined to model complex decision-making conditions.