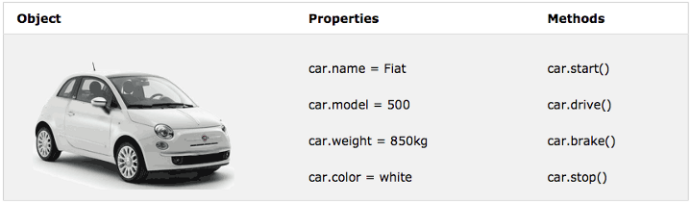
**JavaScript Objects – What are they?**

In JavaScript, almost “everything” is an object:

* **Booleans** can be objects (if defined with the **new** keyword)
* **Numbers** can be objects (if defined with the **new** keyword)
* **Strings** can be objects (if defined with the **new** keyword)
* **Dates** are always objects
* **Maths** are always objects
* **Arrays** are always objects
* **Functions** are always objects
* **Objects** are always objects

For example, nn real life, a car is an **object**.

A car has **properties** like weight and color, and **methods** like start and stop:



All cars have the same **properties**, but the **property** **values** differ from car to car.

All cars have the same **methods**, but the methods are performed **at** **different** **times**.

Objects are variables too. But objects can contain many values.

**Creating and Calling objects Properties**

**Creating Objects**

There are 3 was of assigning many values (Fiat, 500, white) to a variable named car:

* **Type 1**: creating a variable and using **:** to assign the property values:

const car = {type:"Fiat", model:"500",color:"white"};

* **Type 2**: using the **[]** to refer to the property and **=** to assign the property value.

const myCar = {}

myCar["make"] = "Ford";

myCar["model"] = "Mustang";

myCar["year"] = 1969;

* **Type 3**: Using the **.** to refer to the property and **=** to assign the property value.

const myCar = {}

myCar.make = "Ford";

myCar.model = "Mustang";

myCar.year = 1969;

**Calling Properties of an Object**

There are 3 ways to access the property value from the object:

* **Type 1**: Using the **.** to refer to the property:

myCar.make

* **Type 2**: using the **[]** and the name of the property.

myCar["make"]

* **Type 3**: using the **[]** and the position of the propery in the array:

myCar[0]

**The *this* keyword**

In JavaScript, the **this** **keyword** refers to an **object**. Which object depends on how this is being invoked:

* In an **object** / **object** **method**, **this** refers to the **object**.
* **Alone**, **this** refers to the **global** **object**.
* In a **function**, **this** refers to the **global** **object**.
* In an **event**, **this** refers to the **element** **that** **received** **the** **event**.

Using **this** on an **Object**: **this** refers to the **person** object.

const **person** = {  
  firstName: "John",  
  lastName : "Doe",  
  id       : 5566,  
  fullName : function() {  
    return **this**.firstName + " " + **this**.lastName;  
  }  
};

Using **this** on an **Event**: **this** refers to the **HTML that received the event**, in this case the **button** Element.

<button onclick="this.style.display='none'">Click to Remove Me!</button>

**Factory Functions**

There are a few problems with creating objects using the Object Literal Syntax.

If you want to define 2 person objects, you will have to create 2 person objects:

const **person1** = {  
  firstName: "John",  
  lastName : "Doe",  
  fullName : function() {  
    return **this**.firstName + " " + **this**.lastName;  
  }  
};

const **person2** = {  
  firstName: "Peter",  
  lastName : "Pan",  
  fullName : function() {  
    return **this**.firstName + " " + **this**.lastName;  
  }  
};

Now imagine function() has a lot of code lines, and there are more methods in the same object. This is not pratical, as you would have to copy paste, and in case there is a mistake, you would have to correct that in every object.

Just like a factory produces products, **Factory Functions** produce objects. To create a factory function that creates person object, just create a **function() createPerson {}** and copy paste the person object into it@

function() createPerson {

const person = {

firstName: "Peter",

lastName : "Pan",

fullName : function() {

return this.firstName + " " + this.lastName

}

};

}

We want to return this object (person) whenever we call the **createPerson** function, so we add **return person**.

function() createPerson {

const person = {

firstName: "Peter",

lastName : "Pan",

fullName : function() {

return this.firstName + " " + this.lastName

}

};

return person;

}

We don’t need the **const person** object defined as we are not going to reference it anywhere, so we can eliminate it, and just return what is inside the function itself. So whenever we call **createPerson** **function**, it will call the person **object**.

function() createPerson {

return {

firstName: "Peter",

lastName : "Pan",

fullName : function() {

return this.firstName + " " + this.lastName

}

};

}

We still have the properties hardcoded, which means we can’t easily change their values.

function(firstName, lastName) createPerson {

return {

firstName: firstName,

lastName : lastname,

fullName : function() {

return this.firstName + " " + this.lastName

}

};

}

In modern JavaScript, if the **key** and the **value** are the same, we can just keep the property.

function(firstName, lastName) createPerson {

return {

firstName,

lastName,

fullName : function() {

return this.firstName + " " + this.lastName

}

};

}

When a function is inside of an object (**Method**), its notation can be written as a normal function but without the keyword **function**:

Function createPerson(firstName, lastName) {

return {

firstName,

lastName,

fullName() {

return this.firstName + " " + this.lastName

}

};

}

We can now call the **Factory Function** **createPerson** to create a **person** **object** (**person1**) and assign values to its keys:

const person1= createPerson (“Peter”, “Pan”)

If we now type **console.log(person1)**, we get:

{firstName: 'Peter', lastName: 'Pan', fullName: ƒ}

And if we type **console.log(person1.fullName)**, we get:

Peter Pan

**Constructor Functions**

Another pattern to create objects is called **Constructor** **Functions**.

When creating **Constructor** **Functions** we should use **Pascal** **Notation**:

* **Pascal** **Notation**: OneTwoThree
* Camel Notation: oneTwoThree

The equivalent of a **Constructor** **Function** for the Factory Function presented before would be:

function Person (firstName, lastName) {

return {

this.firstName = firstName;

this.lastName = lastName;

this.fullName = function() {

return this.firstName + " " + this.lastName;

}

};

}

In **Constructor** **Functions**, we use **this** to initialize an object.

**this** is a reference to the object that is executing the piece of code. Until we call an object, the object still doesn’t exist.

In order to create a **Person** object:

const person1 = new Person(“Peter”,”Pan”);

The **new** operator does 3 actions:

1. creates an **empty** **object** **person1 = {}**

2. It will make **this** to **point** to that object.

3. It will return the object from the Constructor Function (**person1**).

**Prototype Extensions**

The **prototype** property allows to add new **properties** and **methods** to an existing **object** **constructor** **function**.

For example, the following code would log **English**:

function Person(first, last, age, eyecolor) {  
  this.firstName = first;  
  this.lastName = last;  
  this.age = age;  
  this.eyeColor = eyecolor;  
}  
  
Person.prototype.nationality = "English";

const myFather = new Person("John", "Doe", 50, "blue");

console.log(myFather.nationality)

The following code shows how to use prototype extensions to add a method to an object constructor function. It will log **John Doe**.

function Person(first, last, age, eyecolor) {  
  this.firstName = first;  
  this.lastName = last;  
  this.age = age;  
  this.eyeColor = eyecolor;  
}

Person.prototype.name = function() {  
  return this.firstName + " " + this.lastName;  
};

console.log("My father is " + myFather.name();)

**Callback Functions**

A **Callback** **Function** is passed as an argument to another function.

These functions that are able to take other functions as argument are called **Higher Order Functions**.

Suppose you want to create a calculator function and, depending on the operation you want, it would call a different function (add, subtract, multiply or divide).

First, you would create the 4 functions that return each operation:

function add(n1,n2) {

return n1+n2;

}

function subtract(n1,n2) {

return n1-n2;

}

function divide(n1,n2) {

return n1/n2;

}

function multiply(n1,n2) {

return n1\*n2;

}

Then you need the **Higher Order Function**, which will do the calculation taking into consideration the operator:

function calculator (n1, n2, operation) {

return operation(n1,n2);

}

**operation** is the **Callback** **Function**, i.e. it is going to call one of the other functions.

For example, if we want to do a multiplication by calling the higher order function, we do:

calculator (2, 3, multiply)

**Arrow Functions**

Arrow functions allow us to write shorter function syntax:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Regular Function** | **Arrow Function** |
| hello = function() {   return "Hello World!"; } | hello = () => {   return "Hello World!"; } |

It gets shorter! If the function has only one statement, and the statement returns a value, you can remove the brackets and the return keyword:

hello = () => "Hello World!";

If you have parameters, you pass them inside the parentheses:

hello = (val) => "Hello " + val;

In fact, if you have only one parameter, you can skip the parentheses as well:

hello = val => "Hello " + val;

Let’s see more examples or regular functions converted into arrow functions:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Regular Function** | **Arrow Function** |
| function sum(a,b) {  return a + b  } | let sum = (a + b) => a + b |
| Notes:   * The **function** keyword creates a sum variable, but since we don’t have it in the Arrow Function format, we need to define it with let, const or var. * The arrow => denotes that a and b are parameters * We just have one statement, so return can be removed. | |
| function isPositive(number) {  return number >= 0  } | let isPositive = number => number >=0 |
| Notes:   * When the function only has one single parameter, we can remove the parenthesis around the arguments. | |
| function randomNumber() {  return Math.random  } | let randomNumber() = () => Math.random |
| Notes:   * When the function doesn’t have any parameter, it starts with () | |
| document.addEventListener(‘click’, function {console.log(‘click’)}) | document.addEventListener(‘click’, () => console.log(‘click’)) |
| Notes:   * When an anonymous function is used without parameters and with just one lune, it can be as simple as () => | |

**Arrow Functions and *this* keyword**

The use of **Arrow** **Functions** doesn´t stop in making syntax and code smaller. They don’t redefine the **this** keyword inside of them, as opposed to normal functions.

For example, see below one example of an **Arrow** **Function**, and an example of a Regular Function. There is a simple **Person** class is taking a name in a constructor, and sets **this.name** to **name**. The functions are inside a **setTimeout()** function, which means it will log the name after a certain delay.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Code** | **Result** |
| class Person {  constructor(name) {  this.name=name;  }  printNameArrow() {  setTimeout(() => {  console.log('Arrow: ' + this.name)  }, 100)  }  printNameFunction() {  setTimeout(function() {  console.log('Function: ' + this.name)  }, 100)  }  }  let person = new Person('Bob');  person.printNameArrow();  person.printNameFunction(); |  |

The Arrow Function logs “Bob”, but the regular function doesn’t log any name.

In Regular Functions, this is defined depending on where the function is called. As the function was called outside the class which. In this case, **this.name** is not defined in the global scope, it is inside the **Person** class scope.

With Arrow Functions, they don’t redefine the variable even if they are called outside the scope.

**Classes in JavaScript**

**Classes** were introduced in [EcmaScript 2015](https://262.ecma-international.org/6.0/) (ES6) to provide a **cleaner** way to follow object-oriented programming patterns.

Before classes, we used **constructor** **functions** to do OOP in JavaScript. Have a look at the example below:

function Pen(name, color, price) {

this.name = name;

this.color = color;

this.price = price;

}

const pen1 = new Pen("Marker", "Blue", "3");

console.log(pen1);

The above code shows a **Pen** constructor function that has name, color, and price properties. We are using the **new** keyword with the **Pen** constructor to create an object **pen1**.

Now let's say we want to add a new function to the **Pen** constructor. To do this we need to add the function into the prototype property of **Pen**. Have a look at the **showPrice** function below:

function Pen(name, color, price) {

this.name = name;

this.color = color;

this.price = price;

}

const pen1 = new Pen("Marker", "Blue", "3");

Pen.prototype.showPrice = function(){

console.log(`Price of {this.name} is {this.price}`);

}

pen1.showPrice();

We can re-create the above example with the help of the **class** keyword. Have a look at the below code:

class Pen {

constructor(name, color, price){

this.name = name;

this.color = color;

this.price = price;

}

showPrice(){

console.log(`Price of {this.name} is {this.price}`);

}

}

const pen1 = new Pen("Marker", "Blue", "3");

pen1.showPrice();

We have achieved the same results but with much cleaner syntax. The addition of a new member function like **showPrice** is much easier as compared to adding a function directly into the constructor's prototype.

**Syntax of a Class**

**Class** methods are created with the same syntax as object methods. Use the keyword **class** to create a class.

Always add a **constructor()** method. The **constructor** method is a special method for creating and initializing an object created with a class. There can only be one special method with the name "constructor" in a class.

class ClassName {  
  constructor() { ... }  
  method\_1() { ... }  
  method\_2() { ... }  
  method\_3() { ... }  
}

**Destructuring**

The **Destructuring Assignment** syntax is a JavaScript expression that makes it possible to unpack values from **arrays**, or **properties** from objects, into distinct variables.

**Destructuring** makes it easy to extract only what is needed. We may have an array or object that we are working with, but we only need some of the items contained in these.

**Destructuring Arrays**

A destructured array looks like example below:

let a, b, rest;

[a, b] = [10, 20];

console.log(a);

// expected output: 10

console.log(b);

// expected output: 20

[a, b, ...rest] = [10, 20, 30, 40, 50];

console.log(rest);

// expected output: Array [30,40,50]

While before we used array indexes to access the elements of an array, we can now assign variables to each of those elements and store the value in that variable. In both cases, if we **console.log(car)**, the output will be **mustang**.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Before** | **After** |
| const vehicles = ['mustang', 'f-150', 'expedition'];  // old way  const car = vehicles[0];  const truck = vehicles[1];  const suv = vehicles[2]; | const vehicles = ['mustang', 'f-150', 'expedition'];  const [car, truck, suv] = vehicles; |

See the example below where we have an array of 2 objects:

const animals = [

  {name:"cat", sound:"meow"},

  {name: "dog", sound:"woof"}

]

const [cat, dog] = animals

console.log(cat)

//expected output {name: 'cat', sound: 'meow'}

So, **cat** stores the properties object 0 of the array animals, and the variable **dog** stores the properties of the object 1.

**Destructuring Objects**

When **destructing** **objects**, we keep the **properties** (**name** and **sound**) inside of **{}**, which will now be **variables**, and assign it to an **object** (**cat**).

The names of the variables must match the names of the object property.

const animals = [

  {name:"cat", sound:"meow"},

  {name: "dog", sound:"woof"}

]

const {name, sound} = cat

console.log(sound)

//expected output meow

We can also change the name of the properties by doing:

const animals = [

  {name:"cat", sound:"meow"},

  {name: "dog", sound:"woof"}

]

const {name: catName, sound: catSound} = cat

console.log(catSound)

//expected output meow

It may be useful to provide default values, because when you are getting data from the internet some of the fields might not be filled, so you want to give some default values so your website doesn’t crash. To do it:

const animals = [

  {name: "cat", sound:"meow"},

  {name: "dog", sound:"woof"}

]

const [cat,dog] = animals

const {name = "Fluffy", sound = "Purr"} = cat

console.log(name)

//expected output Fluffy

console.log(sound)

//expected output meow

We may also access properties of nested objects, like below:

const animals = [

  {name: "cat", sound:"meow", feedingRequirements: {

    food:2,

    water:3

    }

  },

  {name: "dog", sound:"woof"}

]

const [cat,dog] = animals

const {name = "Fluffy", sound = "Purr", feedingRequirements:{food,water}} = cat

console.log(food)

//expected output 2

console.log(water)

//expected output 3