

Understand key JavaScript
concepts

Aims

- Understand scope in JS (var, let, const)
- Functions
- Strings
- Arrays
- Describe the prototypical nature of all JavaScript-based inheritance
- Closure scope

Variable scope and hoisting in JS (var, let, const)

Problems with var:

- Scope
- Hoisting
- Redeclarion

``let`` vs ``const``

- Rule of thumb to prefer const over let
- const can't be reassigned
- Note the difference for Objects and Arrays

Functions

- Multi-paradigm nature of JS
- Functions passed as arguments
- Functions assigned as values in an object
- (Fat) Arrow Functions

Strings

- We can use different quotes to declare a string (single, double and backtick)
- Backtick defined strings can have interpolated values declared with ``${}``.
- Strings are immutable but you can access characters
- Helper methods can transform strings and pass values back.

Arrays

- Define with `[]`.
- Key methods (`.join()`, `.map()`, `.filter()`, `.reduce()`, `.forEach()`)
- Destructuring

Prototypical Inheritance

Inheritance with JS is achieved with a chain of prototypes. These approaches have evolved significantly over time.

The three common approaches to creating a prototypal chain:

- functional
- constructor functions
- class-syntax constructors

For the purposes of these examples, we will be using a Wolf and Dog taxonomy, where a Wolf is a prototype of a Dog.

Prototypical Inheritance (Functional)

```
1  const wolf = {
2    howl: function() { console.log(`${this.name} awooooooo`) }
3  }
4
5  const dog = Object.create(wolf, {
6    woof: {value: function() {console.log(`${this.name} woof`)}}
7  })
8
9  const rufus = Object.create(dog, {
10   name: {value: 'Rufus the dog'}
11 })
12
13 rufus.woof()
14 rufus.howl()
```

Prototypical Inheritance (Constructor function)

```
1  function Wolf(name) {
2    this.name = name;
3  }
4
5  Wolf.prototype.howl = function() {
6    console.log(`${this.name} awooooooooo`)
7  }
8
9  function Dog(name) {
10   Wolf.call(this, `${name} the dog`)
11 }
12
13 Object.setPrototypeOf(Dog.prototype, Wolf.prototype)
14
15 Dog.prototype woof = function() {
16   console.log(`${this.name} woof`)
17 }
18
19 const rufus = new Dog('Rufus')
20
21 rufus.woof()
22 rufus.howl()
```

Prototypal Inheritance (Class-Syntax Constructors)

```
1  class Wolf {  
2    constructor(name) {  
3      this.name = name  
4    }  
5    howl() {  
6      console.log(`${this.name} awooooooooo`)  
7    }  
8  }  
9  
10 class Dog extends Wolf {  
11   constructor(name) {  
12     super(`${name} the dog`)  
13   }  
14   woof() {  
15     console.log(`${this.name} woof`)  
16   }  
17 }  
18  
19 const rufus = new Dog('Rufus')  
20  
21 rufus.woof()  
22 rufus.howl()
```