Working with variables

Learn how to harness console.log to output our code so we can see what's going on. Learn more about using and copying variables.

Printing

To print something out, we use something called `console.log()`. We write that phrase with either a value or a variable name inside the parentheses. We see that item being printed out when we run our code. This is a very valuable tool as it lets us see what our code is doing.

```
1  let bool = true;
2  let string = 'abc';
3
4  console.log('Hello!'); // -> Hello!
5  console.log(false); // -> false
6  console.log(bool); // -> true
7  console.log(string); // -> abc
```

Reassigning Variables

We can give a variable a new value if we like.

```
1  let variable = 'abc';
2  console.log(variable); // -> abc
3
4  variable = 25;
5  console.log(variable); // -> 25
6
7  variable = false;
8  console.log(variable); // -> false
```

Note that we don't use the `let` keyword again. We use it once the first time we create a variable and then we can reassign values without it.

If we use `let` again, we'll get an error.

```
1   let variable = 'abc';
2   console.log(variable);
3
4   let variable = 25; // -> Compilation Error
5   console.log(variable);
6
7   let variable = false;
8   console.log(variable);
```

Assigning Using Variables

We can copy the value of a variable into another variable using `=` .

```
let variable = 'abc';
let variableCopy = variable;
console.log(variableCopy); // -> abc
```

Once we copy a variable, the new variable is distinct from the old one. They have no relation to each other. If we change one, the other remains unchanged.

```
let variable = 'abc';
let variableCopy = variable;
variable = 'def';

console.log(variable); // -> def
console.log(variableCopy); // -> abc
```

We now know how to reassign variables and see what they are when we run our code. Let's move on to more variable types next.

Quiz

Feel free to test your understanding.

1 What will this code print?

```
let variable = 'abc';
let variableCopy = variable;
variableCopy = 'def';
variable = variableCopy;
console.log(variable);
```

○ A) variable

○ B) variableCopy

○ C) abc

○ D) def

○ E) error

2 What will this code print?

```
let variable = 'abc';
let variableCopy = variable;
let variable = 'def';
console.log(variable);
```

A) variable

B) variableCopy

C) abc

D) def

E) error

CHECK ANSWERS