Arrays, Part 1 : Methods

Learn how to use the information stored inside arrays in more useful ways. Learn the most important functions we can use with arrays to manipulate their data.

JavaScript has multiple functions avaiable for use built-in to the language. There are several that help us work with arrays.

Array.push

We can add items to the end of an array using `Array.push`. When I capitalize `Array`, I mean that this function is avaible to use on every array.

The way this function is used is a little different than the ones we've written. It's used like `console.log` is used.
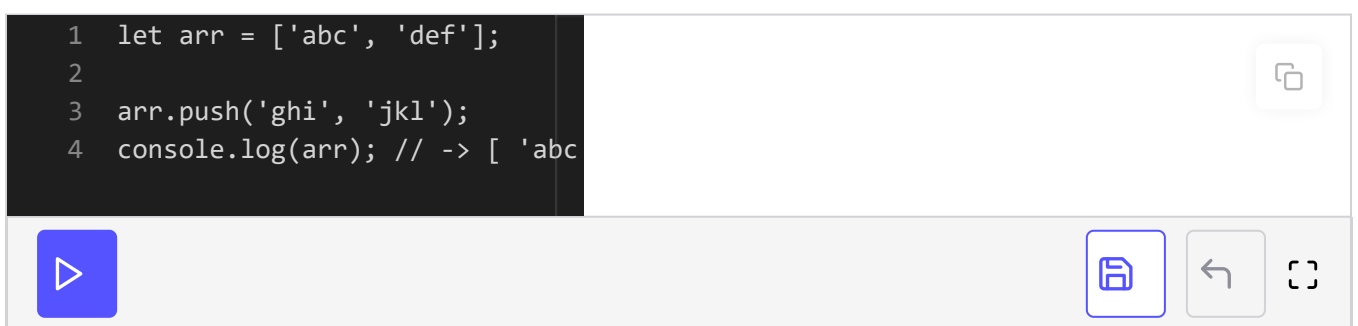
```
1  let arr = ['abc', 'def'];
2  console.log(arr); // -> [ 'abc
3
4  arr.push('ghi');
5  console.log(arr); // -> [ 'abc
```

To use this function, we use the array we want to add an item to. We add a `.push()` after the variable name and pass in whatever we like to the function. The argument will be added to the end of that array.

We can push multiple items at once. We just pass in more arguments to the `push` function.

```
1  let arr = ['abc', 'def'];
2
3  arr.push('ghi', 'jkl');
4  console.log(arr); // -> [ 'abc
```

Functions that are invoked by using a dot are called *methods*. `Array.push` is a method.

Array.pop

`Array.pop` is another method. It removes the last item from an array and returns it. It takes no arguments.

```
1  let arr = ['abc', 'def', 'ghi'];
2  let lastItem = arr.pop();
3
4  console.log(lastItem); // -> ghi
5  console.log(arr); // -> [ 'abc', 'def' ]
```

Array.shift

`Array.shift` is like pop, except it removes from the beginning of an array.

```
let arr = ['abc', 'def', 'ghi'];
let firstItem = arr.shift();

console.log(firstItem); // -> abc
console.log(arr); // -> [ 'def', 'ghi' ]
```

Array.unshift

This is like push, but adds to the beginning of an array. Again, it can take multiple arguments.

```
let arr = ['abc', 'def'];
arr.unshift('ghi', 'jkl');
console.log(arr); // -> [ 'ghi', 'jkl', 'abc', 'def' ]
```

There are several more array methods. You will discover them as you continue to code and figure out how to solve problems. If you'd like to see more, MDN's array page has them listed.

Quiz

Feel free to test your understanding.

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1 What will the following code print?

```
let arr = [];

arr.push(1, 2, 3);
arr.shift();
arr.unshift(4);
arr.push(5);
arr.pop();

console.log(arr);
```

A) `[4, 2, 3]`

B) `[4, 1, 2, 3]`

C) `[4, 2, 3, 5]`

D) `[1, 2, 3]`

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2 What will the following code print?

```
let arr = [];

arr.push(1, 2, 3);
arr.unshift();
arr.push(5);
arr.pop();

console.log(arr);
```

A) `[1, 2, 3]`

B) `[2, 3]`

C) `[2, 3, 5]`

D) `[1, 2, 3, 5]`

CHECK ANSWERS