

What is Encapsulation?

Definition:

Encapsulation is one of the core principles of OOP (Object-Oriented Programming). It means **wrapping data (properties) and methods (functions)** into a single unit (usually a class), and **restricting direct access** to some parts of the object.

Key Goals of Encapsulation:

1. **Protect** data from unwanted changes.
2. **Hide internal details** (implementation).
3. Allow access to data **only through methods** (getters/setters).

Example in JavaScript:

```
class BankAccount {  
    // Private property (using # symbol for true encapsulation)  
    #balance = 0;  
  
    constructor(initialAmount) {  
        if (initialAmount >= 0) {  
            this.#balance = initialAmount;  
        }  
    }  
  
    // Getter method to access balance  
    getBalance() {  
        return this.#balance;  
    }  
  
    // Setter-like method to deposit money  
    deposit(amount) {  
        if (amount > 0) {  
            this.#balance += amount;  
        }  
    }  
  
    // Creating an object  
    const account = new BankAccount(1000);  
    account.deposit(500);  
    console.log(account.getBalance()); // Output: 1500  
    console.log(account.#balance); // ✗ Error: Cannot access private field
```

Explanation (Point-by-Point):

1. `#balance` is a **private field** – it cannot be accessed directly from outside the class.
2. The `deposit()` method is the **only way** to change the balance.
3. The `getBalance()` method is used to **safely read** the balance.
4. Trying to do `account.#balance` from outside will cause an error – that's **encapsulation**.

Real-Life Analogy:

Think of a **vending machine**: You can press buttons (methods), but you can't directly access the internal parts (data) – it's **encapsulated**.